



Saturday December 28 1996

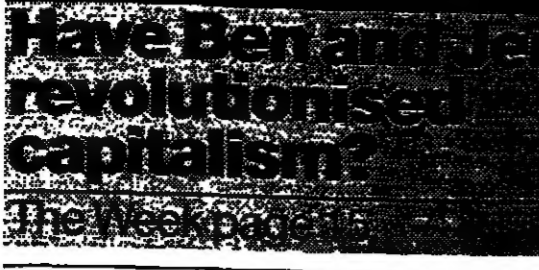
Table of international exchange rates for various countries including Abu Dhabi, Albania, Andorra, etc.

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 48,748

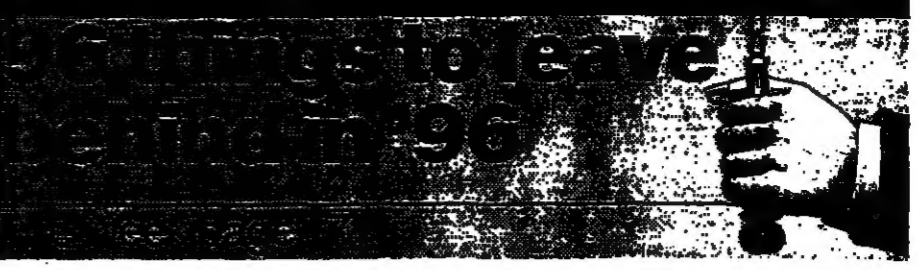
## The Joanna Coles interview



## Anthony Julius



## Charles Nevin's guide to the worst of the past year



Racehorses gathered on the gallops at Middleham Moor beneath the Pennine tops for exercise yesterday as all racing on turf in England fell foul of frost and snowdrift chaos, page 4; The Week, page 21 PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN GILES

## Britons held on mutiny ship

Owen Bowcott

THE fate of two Britons revealed to be among a group of 28 workers being held hostage on board a cargo ship off the coast of Nigeria since before Christmas was last night being urgently investigated by the Foreign Office.

# Row over jail 'humiliation'

## Searches anger probation officers

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

PROBATION officers visiting prisons throughout England and Wales have walked out in protest at "humiliating" intimate body searches.

Probation officers visiting jails to complete court reports or make release arrangements were subject to electronic scanning and a property search. But now they face a long list of body checks including examination of their ears, mouth and hair and, if female, inside their bras and inside the waistband of their trousers.

Officers may not be required to undergo the full procedure, and, if this is the case, their hand will be given an ultraviolet [sic] stamp. The Probation Officer may now move on to the Gate.

From the formal complaints lodged by probation staff... Belmarsh: "Without warning a female prison officer conducted a physical search which included putting her fingers under my bra and inside my leggings. This was done in the main area in front of male solicitors."

## Drink, drug and sex secrets of teenagers' bedrooms

Wweek Chaudhary and Andrew Gull

PARENTS used to worry about their teenage children going out at night and falling prey to drink, drugs and sex. But now they can get all that at home.



## Tory's part-time MPs claim disgusts Labour

Michael White Political Editor

LABOUR yesterday staged a daring kidnapping, said one of the great figures of Tory mythology when it accused the Asda supermarket chief, Archie Norman, of provoking the wrath of "Disgusted of Tunbridge Wells".

"Perhaps Dr Mawhinney should say if this doctrine on backbench work-rate is to be the general rule for Tory candidates," said Mr Wilson. "Most MPs find that constituency and parliamentary work add up to something more than a full-time job. The idea that you can run a grocery chain is bizarre."

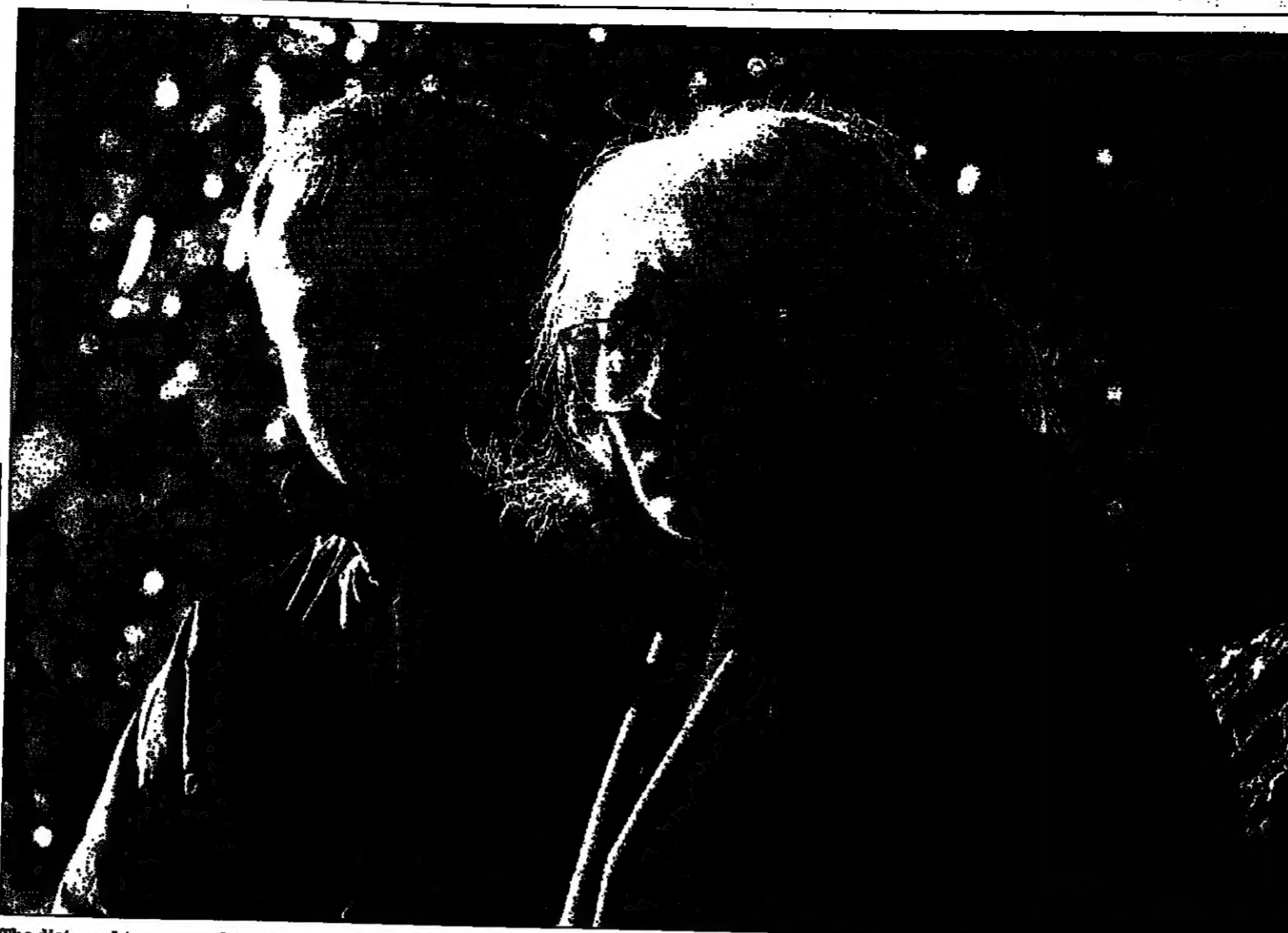
Navigation bar with sections: Inside, News, World News, Finance, Sport, Comment and Letters 8, Obituaries 7, Weather 2, TV and Radio 2, The Week, Arts 18-19, Sport 20-24. Includes a barcode and the number 770261 307480.

Advertisement for Virgin direct personal financial service. Text: "Get that pension sorted, call us today." Includes the Virgin direct logo, phone number 0345 95 95 95, and a note: "Open seven days a week from 9am to 7pm".

British nurse is not guilty, insists family

Alison Daniels

THE family of Lucille McLauchlan, the British nurse charged with murdering a Saudi Arabian...



The distraught parents of Dundee nurse Lucille McLauchlan, Stan and Ann, who say they will secure the best legal help for their daughter. She and another Briton have been charged with murdering a colleague in Saudi Arabia, and face the death penalty if found guilty.

been 'absolute hell'. John McLauchlan, an oil-rigger worker, said: 'We have spoken to Lucy very briefly on the phone and she has assured us of her innocence...'

Mr. McLauchlan said embassy staff could not interfere in Saudi Arabia's judicial procedures. He said no request for visas to visit Saudi Arabia had been made by the McLauchlans or by Ms Parry's next of kin.

tion reports in the Saudi newspaper Al-Hayat claiming the women had confessed to the killing after a row with the victim. A spokesman said concerns had been expressed over safety measures at the King Fahd hospital, which employs an international staff.

ly's nightmare and media speculation about the possible outcome has made this a very harrowing experience for his family. 'The last few days have been terrible for us and for Lucy. She is a cheerful, normal girl who is popular with her friends. She was looking forward to getting married...'

working at the hospital since August. She had previously been a nurse at King's Cross Hospital in Dundee but was dismissed in May for gross misconduct after an investigation by Teyside police into allegations of dishonesty.

Milosevic told to respect will of the people

Julian Borger East Europe Correspondent

SERBIA'S protest movement scored an important victory yesterday when a team of international mediators unequivocally upheld opposition wins in local elections and called on President Slobodan Milosevic to respect the will of the people. The judgment by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) was greeted with jubilation in Belgrade by crowds of opposition supporters who have protested daily since the government refused to accept a string of defeats in major cities in municipal elections on November 17. But the celebrations turned sour as night fell, when police clashed with protesters returning home from a rally. Witnesses said police attacked with truncheons after being jeered. At least one person was beaten unconscious, and two foreign television crews were attacked and had their cameras smashed. The OSCE findings are not legally binding but they pressure Mr Milosevic with a stark choice. If he accepts them, they could provide a face-saving way out of the deadlocked confrontation. If he ignores the judgment, he will make it clear that he would rather resume the role of international pariah than share even a token slice of power. The former Spanish foreign minister, Felipe Gonzalez, who led an OSCE mission to Serbia last weekend, said the opposition Zajedno (Together) coalition had won local polls

in 13 disputed cities and towns and in nine Belgrade municipalities. Speaking at a press conference in Geneva to announce the OSCE findings, Mr Gonzalez said the Serbian courts annulled the results on the basis of arguments 'that no democratic country could have accepted'. His report recommended that the OSCE issue an urgent call on the authorities 'to implement the will of the citizens as expressed in the polls'. The Spanish mediator said he telephoned Mr Milosevic to inform him of the findings and asked for a response by early next week. 'There exists an extraordinary opportunity for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to solve this concrete problem, to initiate real democracy in the country, and to reintegrate itself into the international community,' said Mr Gonzalez. An OSCE council meeting is expected in Vienna before the end of next week to consider Mr Milosevic's response. Diplomats say economic sanctions, lifted after last year's Bosnian peace agreement, could be reimposed if he refuses to compromise. Russia, however, has opposed the case of further international pressure. In Belgrade, around 80,000 Zajedno supporters cheered and danced in the street after the ruling was announced. But coalition leaders said they expected the president to choose confrontation. 'We do not expect him to accept the findings of this commission, we expect further escalation, aggravation,' said Zoran Djindjic, the head of the Democratic Party, one of Zajedno's main forces.

The weather in Europe



Forecast for the cities table with columns for city, temperature, and weather conditions for today and tomorrow.

Around the world table showing weather forecasts for various global locations including London, New York, Tokyo, and Sydney.

European weather outlook. A warm front will bring snow to much of Norway, but most of the rest of the region will be fine and cold with freezing fog patches.

Television and radio - Saturday

- Television and radio - Saturday. Includes program listings for BBC 1, BBC 2, BBC Prime, BBC World, and Sky 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30.

Television and radio - Sunday

- Television and radio - Sunday. Includes program listings for BBC 1, BBC 2, BBC Prime, BBC World, and Sky 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30.

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# First blood to the bailiffs in latest bypass battle

Alex Bellon and Geoffrey Gibbs

**E**NVIRONMENTAL protesters trying to stop construction of a Devon trunk road were caught on the hop yesterday when bailiffs took one hour to evict a camp they had taken two years to build.

The battle to stop the Exeter-Honiton A30 bypass is the latest flashpoint in a wider campaign against road-building. Many veterans of the high-profile action against the Newbury bypass, which started almost a year ago, have been in Devon preparing defences including networks of connecting tunnels.

Twenty bailiffs with 30 police officers as back-up launched a pre-dawn raid on Allercombe, the smallest of the three camps on the route. Despite threats by protesters to chain themselves in the tunnels, only five were there and none was underground.

The Under Sheriff of Devon,

'It went smoothly. There was no resistance. They were a bit dozy'

Trevor Coleman, said the protesters were found asleep in tree houses. "There was no resistance at all. It went very smoothly. We had the element of surprise and they were definitely a bit dozy."

Sep, aged 21, said: "I was asleep in the communal tree house and it took me a couple of minutes to realise what was going on. By the time I had woken up and got my boots on there were two bailiffs inside."

The focus of the protest — a 13-mile stretch of dual carriageway, linking the M5 motorway near Exeter with the existing Honiton bypass — has divided local opinion.

Local people, who have been promised a bypass since 1929, have long argued for improvements to the existing road, which contains a number of accident blackspots and is often choked with traffic, especially during the summer.

But the need to cut a new stretch of road through the east Devon countryside, involving the destruction of ancient trees, also led to local environmental campaigners

Joining forces with seasoned anti-roads protesters, veterans of battles around the country.

Since 1992, when the Dongas tribe invented anti-road direct action by squatting on Twyford Down near Winchester, roads protests have become part of the British cultural landscape.

The best known were at Batheston, Wanstead, Pollock and Newbury, although there have been many more. Even though none has stopped a road being built, campaigning groups feel the protests have shifted public opinion in their favour.

The protests have had a long-term effect. The Government realises that building a road can have serious political and financial implications — for example, more than \$15 million was spent on security costs at Newbury. Many planned road projects have been abandoned.

Companies also think twice before tendering for road contracts. Costain, which is building Newbury, is still harassed by protesters. About a quarter of the shareholders who turned up at Costain's extraordinary general meeting in London yesterday were anti-road activists.

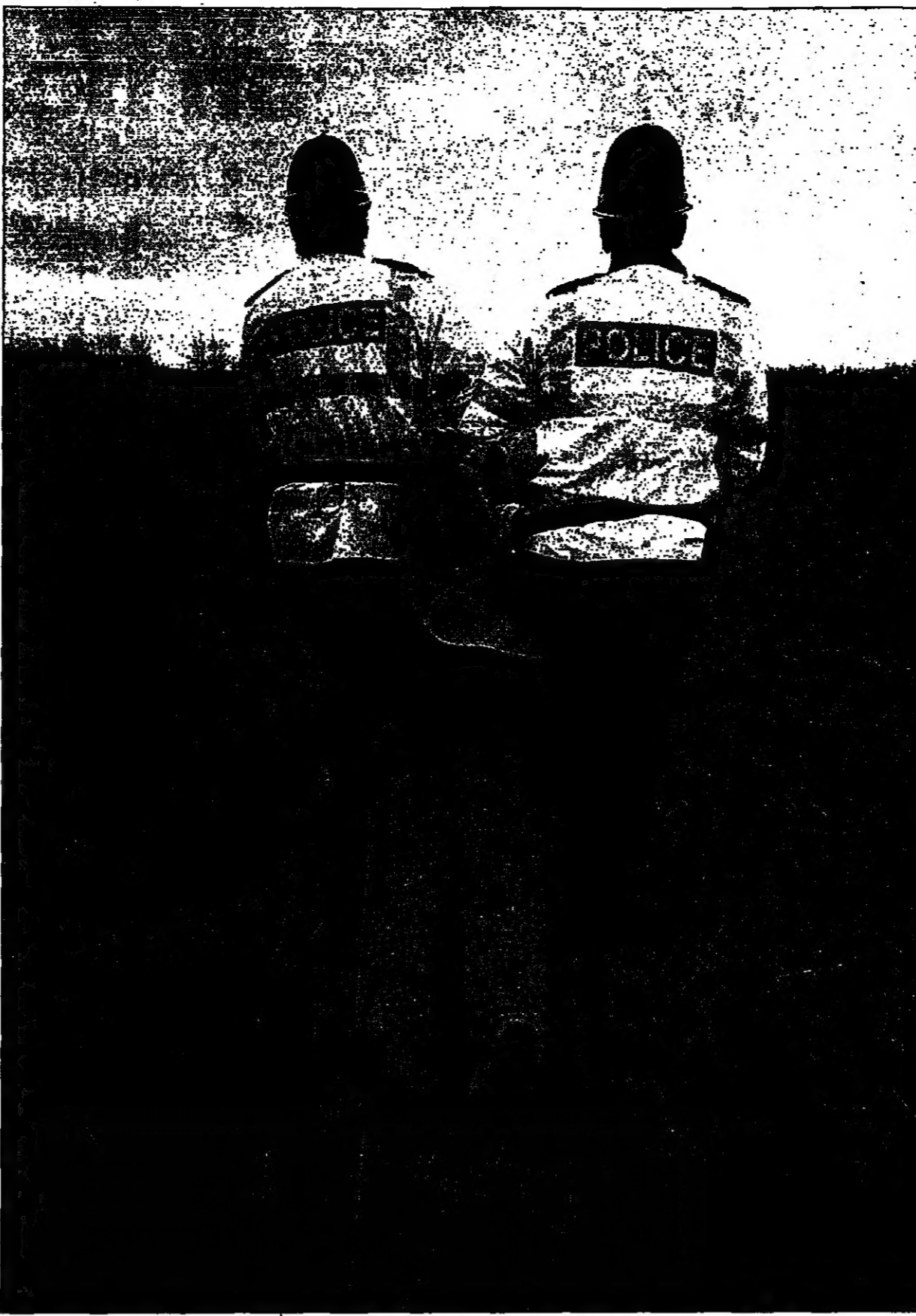
The Government gave the go-ahead for the Devon scheme in October 1995 after a public inquiry. The \$20 million contract to build and operate the road was awarded in July to the Anglo-German consortium Connect under the Government's Private Finance Initiative.

The camps which then sprung up around the site of the bypass were nicknamed the University of Road Protests because people have been living there for so long and the protesters have developed new techniques for delaying the onset of the diggers.

A web of underground tunnels was built, where protesters planned to hide, blocking the exits when the bailiffs moved in. The tunnels' structure is so weak that the weight of heavy vehicles above ground would cause them to collapse, a move which no contractor would dare risk, the protesters claimed.

They also adopted the tested technique of building structures in the trees, which they planned to "lock on" to prevent or delay eviction.

When the critical moment came yesterday morning, two people were arrested. A 30-year-old man was detained on charges arising from the



Road to nowhere... Police remove a protester after yesterday's raid on the camp at Allercombe

PHOTOGRAPH: TIM CLIFF

Newbury bypass protest and a woman was arrested for aggravated trespass after allegedly entering the cordon of red and white tape thrown up around the area.

Tunnelling contractors and climbing experts checked the tunnels and tree houses to ensure no protesters remained before work began with a mechanical digger and chain saws to render the site uninhabitable.

Around 100 feet of tunnels were excavated, Mr Coleman admitted. "They were more

'We have put out the call on the tree phone for other Trolls to join us'

extensive than we expected." He added: "We have endeavoured to safeguard their belongings, and although these are very numerous they are of little value and we will leave them for their collection at a suitable time."

"I am disappointed that far so-called environmental protesters they have taken little care of their immediate environment and the site resembles a waste dump."

Yesterday's walk-over is unlikely to be repeated at the evictions of the two larger camps, Trollheim and Fair-

mile, which are five miles away. Both are larger and less isolated, and word is out around the country for supporters to head down there.

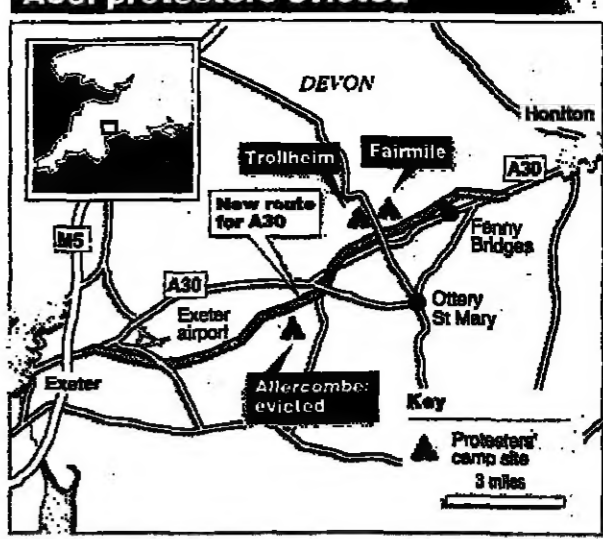
"We have already put out the call on the tree phone for other Trolls to join us," said one resident of the heavily wooded hilltop Trollheim camp. He hoped a hundred or more protesters would come from as far afield as Scotland to join those who have been living at the neighbouring camps for up to two years.

Mr Coleman's officials acknowledge that evicting the Fairmile and Trollheim protesters will prove a more difficult prospect. But a spokesman said the bailiffs were not concerned by the technical difficulties involved or the prospect of more protesters arriving as a result of the Allercombe publicity. "We feel we have the men and machinery to cope with whatever situation occurs."

Yesterday, a protester who arrived at Fairmile about a month ago, said he and others living there had been on full alert since early in the morning after hearing news of the Allercombe eviction.

Keeping watch from a precarious-looking tripod structure beneath the huge oak that dominates the camp, he said he would lock his arm into a metal oil drum to resist eviction once the Under Sheriff's men were spotted moving on the camp.

## A30: protesters evicted



## Landmark protests

**TWYFORD DOWN, 1992:** The first direct action anti-road protest. The Dongas tribe linked with environmental groups and local residents to object to the M3 extension near Winchester. They said it would cut through beautiful countryside.

**WANSTEAD, 1994:** The battle over the M11 link road saw hundreds of protesters clash with police and private security guards. The link road, still being built, will run through Wanstead, east London. Protesters took over five houses and occupied trees on Wanstead Common.

**BATHEASTON, 1994:** Bel Mooney, wife of Jonathan Dimbleby, was the highest profile local resident to join hard-core direct action activists camping out on the site of the Stainswick bypass, Batheston, on the outskirts of Bath. Her involvement in spring 1994 and the attendant publicity was instrumental in bringing the ideas behind road protests to a larger audience.



Newbury this year became the largest roads protest to date

## The Guardian Personality of the Year

John Major won the BBC's Personality of the Year award amid accusations of dirty-dealing. No other politician was nominated. The Guardian's poll. You are invited to vote before 10pm on 29th Dec.

- Neil Hamilton For services to the Labour Party
- Jane Austen
- For services to ratings
- Duchess of York
- For services to republicanism
- Owen Davies For services to parliamentary democracy
- Neil Jordan
- For services to republicanism
- Kenneth Clarke For services to Europe

## Britons held on mutiny ship

continued from page 1  
faxed messages about their captives were "safe and unharmed" and negotiations to reach a "more reasonable" pay request were under way. It is the fifth day they have been there since December 28 and there are ongoing negotiations to resolve the situation. "So far they are safe and unharmed despite the passing of a deadline by the Nigerian workers who said things will happen if their demands were not met by then," he said. Filipino crew members, who had been able to send



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WHEN YOU VISIT THE TOWN SQUARE of Lynchburg, Tennessee, there are a couple of sights you can expect to see.

One is our town dog, who's been around forever. The other is Mr. Herb Fanning, who's been around even longer. Mr. Herb drops into Jack Daniel Distillery often, to make sure we're still mellowing our whiskey the way we did when he worked here. Which is to say, the same way our founder prescribed back in 1866. So far, we haven't disappointed Mr. Herb. Nor any of the folks who enjoy a whiskey made the old-time way.



JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

**"We shall not progress towards a fair society until privileged members like you and me who do very well out of spurious traditions are prepared to protest against them."**  
Head to Head: the Honours List  
**The Week page 16**

Alison Daniels reports on the political row over cold weather payments to the elderly as icy conditions swept Britain again yesterday

# 'Million missing out' on heating aid

**L**AST night, as weather forecasters predicted a further drop in temperatures, there were warnings that many elderly people faced hardship and even death as a result of poor heating and poverty.

Under the Department of Social Security system pensioners, the disabled and families with children under five, all on income support, will receive payments in five areas in Scotland and in Liscombe, near Dulverton, in Somerset.

Benefit Agency payments of £8.50 a week are triggered when the average temperature has been at freezing or below for seven consecutive days, or weather stations predict such temperatures for the next seven days.

However, Harriet Harman, shadow social security secretary, said the rules meant that almost 1 million old people who did not claim the income support to which they were entitled missed out on help with their fuel bills.

"The stark truth is that Britain's poorest pensioners may have to choose between heating and eating this winter because the Tories have failed to ensure they get the benefits they are entitled to," she said.

Although Labour do not propose to alter the formula triggering payments, the Labour MP for Preston, Audrey Wise, said she hoped to pilot into law a backbench bill requiring the wind chill factor to be taken into account when calculating payments. The current system was, she claimed, designed to be triggered as infrequently as possible.

Concern about payments were also raised by the Liberal Democrat MP Diana Maddock, who said 250 people died of hypothermia last winter. The charity Help the Aged called on the Government to relax the criteria for payments from seven days to four.

According to the DSS the Scottish payments have been triggered on the basis of predictions for the next week while the Somerset payments are based on temperatures recorded over the last seven days.

The social security minister Andrew Mitchell, defended the current scheme, which was introduced by this Conservative government to help some of the most vulnerable people in our society.

A DSS spokesman said it was too simplistic to say a million pensioners would miss out. He said the Government made every effort to ensure those who were entitled to benefits knew about them.



Painter Bryan Bowen at work on a winter snowscape of Mousehold Heath, Norwich, yesterday, as icy conditions caused severe problems for motorists around the country

## Colder times ahead as ice makes it treacherous for drivers

### Man dies after falling through pond in attempt to rescue dog

**F**ROZEN weather conditions brought chaos to roads throughout the country yesterday amid predictions that temperatures will continue to fall over the next few days.

had to be freed from wreckage after his car hit a railway bridge.

In the Midlands motoring organisations painted a picture of delays and treacherous conditions caused by icy roads and dense fog and said they had been inundated with pleas for help.

to rescue a stranded dog. Divers recovered the body of 32-year-old Edward Rees from a pond near Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan, after a day-long search involving a mountain rescue team and a helicopter.

Mr Rees, of Pen-y-darren, Merthyr Tydfil, had been walking in countryside above the Morlais Quarry and was reported missing by relatives after failing to return home when darkness fell.

The Glencoe and Lochaber mountain rescue teams were joined by a helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth and mountain rescue teams from RAF Kinross and RAF Leuchars, but abandoned the search after combing the Lochaber area.

A spokesman for Northern Constabulary in Inverness said it was possible Mr Winship, a father of two, had walked off the hills. However, he said conditions on the hills had been bitterly cold.

## Briton saves French sailor on high seas

**A** FRENCH solo sailor was recovering last night after being rescued from the sea by British round-the-world yachtman Pete Goss.

Mr Goss put aside his dreams of race victory as he sailed to the rescue of Raphael Dinelli, aged 28, who was stranded in a life raft dropped to him by a rescue plane after his yacht *Aligmon* began to sink in the Indian Ocean on Thursday night.

The pair were competing in the Vendée Globe non-stop, single-handed race around the world.

Mr Goss, aged 34, a former Royal Marine who sold his house and ran up debts of more than £80,000 to fulfil a 10-year ambition to take part in the race, was the first to respond to the Frenchman's urgent Mayday call.

His sloop the 50ft *Aqua Quorum*, which is the smallest in the fleet, was part-designed by the man who put the front on *Concorde* and was launched by actress Joanna Lumley.

The ex-British Steel Challenge skipper, from Plymouth, Devon, managed to rendezvous with Mr Dinelli's life raft drifting in the ocean at 11.30pm (GMT).

## British firm urged to withdraw from Malaysian dam project

**P**aul Brown, Environment Correspondent

**A** BIRMINGHAM company which has won a contract to provide alternative housing for at least 9,000 Malaysian forest dwellers when their homes are drowned by a dam has been urged to withdraw from the project by the environmental group Friends of the Earth because the people are to be removed by force.

The Bucknall Group has a key role in preventing delays in the \$4 billion Bakun hydro-electric project in Sarawak on Borneo by providing the housing. Many of the tribesmen have said they will resist the move.

The project will drown more than 200,000 acres of mainly primary forest, including the longhouses of five tribes comprising 9,000-10,000 people.

These tribes were not fully consulted about the project and are opposed to it. However, the government has decided they should be removed if they will not volunteer to be rehoused. Many tribesmen have said they will resist.

Work has begun on clearing the forest. The aim is to finish one of the largest rock wall dam projects in the world by 2002.

Friends of the Earth wrote to David Bucknall, the group's chief executive, pointing out the opposition of more than 40 groups of indigenous people and environmental, human rights, women's and consumer groups.

## Hospital beds 'blocked' by social care patients

**David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent**

**A** LMOST three-quarters of local authorities questioned in a survey admit there is "bed-blocking" in hospitals because there are patients fit for discharge who cannot be moved out.

The survey by the local authority associations found that 50 authorities reported a total 1,365 blocked beds in their areas. In one area, 178 beds were occupied by people awaiting discharge.

Bed-blocking has emerged as one of the biggest problems facing the NHS since the introduction in 1993 of the community care system, by which local authority social services departments must ensure people's needs are met after discharge from hospital.

Many hospitals have claimed they have valuable bed space taken up by patients, generally elderly, awaiting assessment or care arrangements by social services. A survey last year by the NHS executive suggested more than 6,000 beds might be blocked in this way in England alone.

Although the figure from the local authorities' survey is far lower, it is not a complete picture and it has been calculated on a different basis. Most important, it represents the authorities' first formal acknowledgement of the problem.

The survey covered the 141 social services departments in England and Wales and drew responses from 69, 72 per cent of which said they had blocked beds.

Twenty-three departments said patients were waiting for a care home place of their choice; 14 reported funding problems; eight said patients were waiting for equipment or adaptations to enable them to go home; two said patients were refusing to leave hospital.

## Girl, 16, who stormed out of home after family row found hanged in nearby woodland

**Owen Bowcott**

**A** TEENAGE schoolgirl who stormed out of the family home on Christmas Eve after a row with her father was yesterday found hanged in woodland less than half a mile away.

The body of 16-year-old Stephanie Edmunds, of Rhigos, near Aberdare, in south Wales, was discovered after mounted police led a wide search over nearby hills.

The operation followed a desperate public appeal on Boxing Day from her father, Reginald Edmunds, who initially thought she had gone off to her room to sulk. The family had pleaded with

Stephanie to come home, saying that their disagreement had been resolved.

Officers found Stephanie early yesterday. Inspector Tony Garrett of South Wales police said: "It's a mystery. One minute she was in the house but when her parents went to look for her she had gone."

Mr Edmunds, his wife Diane, and their two sons Geraint, 13 and Philip, 18, were said to be distraught. The close community of Rhigos was also upset by the news that Stephanie had been found dead.

Lorraine Davies, a neighbour, said: "She was a lovely girl - she used to babysit for my grandchildren. Everyone loved her. She often did my

the missing nine-year-old schoolgirl Kayleigh Ward yesterday carried out an intensive search of two travellers' encampments on the outskirts of Wrexham.

Kayleigh, described by police as "streetwise", disappeared a week ago after leaving her home in Lorne Street, Chester, to buy chips for a neighbour. Despite Christmas appeals from her mother Yvonne, 36, there has so far been no trace of her.

More than 50 officers from Cheshire and North Wales took part in yesterday's operation investigating two large encampments at Ruthin Road and Cross Newydd, on the edge of Wrexham.

Nicknamed "Oddyball" or "Oddy", Kayleigh is believed by police to have had contacts with the travelling community. She used to play truant from school and go into the world of Chester, where she would chat to homeless people. One report suggested that a lone child of around Kayleigh's age was out carol singing on Sunday night on the sprawling Blaenau Conant estate in Chester where Kayleigh lived until last October.



Stephanie: 'She was a lovely girl. Everyone loved her'

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Moscow hails trade pact with China

David Hearst in Moscow

RUSSIA yesterday signed a wide range of agreements on the transfer of nuclear and military technology to China...

President Boris Yeltsin, who was back at work after his long recovery from open-heart surgery, held a 50-minute meeting with the Chinese prime minister, Li Peng...

In comments clearly directed at Washington, a presidential spokesman, Sergei Yastrebensky, said the two leaders had agreed that the future political map of the world should be a "bi-polar one which is not divided into leaders and those who are being led..."

It was also pointed out that Mr Li was the first foreign visitor to see Mr Yeltsin since he returned to the Kremlin after a six-month absence...

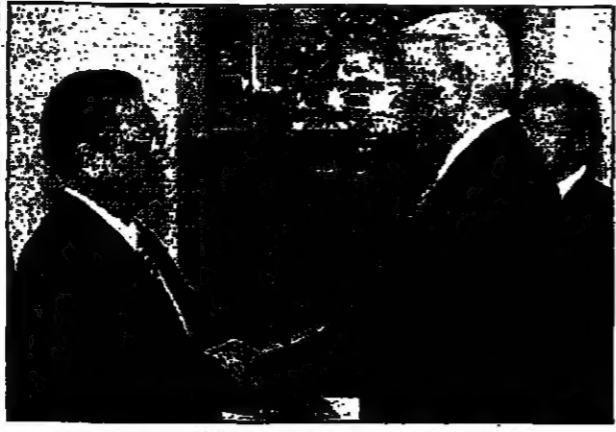
Mr Yeltsin, eager to present himself with a foreign policy success after so many setbacks with the West, said yesterday: "Our strategic agreements reached in Beijing work..."

As an indication of the two countries' determination to forge closer links, it was announced that the Russian prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, would meet Mr Li twice a year, to parallel the contacts already established with the United States vice-president, Al Gore...

The two sides also set themselves a target of raising annual trade turnover to as much as \$6.2 billion next year. The sale of Russian military and nuclear hardware will be at the forefront of the new Sino-Russian relationship...

Mr Li also signed a protocol on building in China a gas centrifuge plant for producing uranium. A similar project to sell gas centrifuge technology to Iran caused a serious rift between Moscow and Washington more than a year ago...

Another initial agreement...



Above: President Yeltsin (right) welcomes the Chinese prime minister, Li Peng, at the Kremlin yesterday, his first meeting with a foreign leader since his heart operation. Right: Father Frost and his daughter Snegurochka ("snow-born girl") join soldiers exercising at a barracks in Moscow to help them celebrate the new year...



Lebed forms 'third force' to strike at Yeltsin

David Hearst in Moscow

ALEXANDER LEBED, the most powerful opposition figure in Russia, has announced that he is forming a political "third force" to attract millions of voters who, he claims, are disappointed with communism...

Mr Lebed, however, is keen to have the summit in April, which would be a foreign policy success, in contrast to his administration's radical acquiescence in the eastwards expansion of Nato...

efficient government run by people prepared to make extreme decisions to make their own interests...

The former security chief made clear that his break with Mr Yeltsin was final by devoting a large part of the interview to the president's health...

"I know for certain that Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin is a very sick man," he said. Quoting his own highly placed sources, he hinted that Mr Yeltsin was ignoring the advice of doctors by launching himself again into the political fray...

for retirement and to play the role of a fund grandfather. He said: "The president has spent half a year having an operation and recuperating, but someone was running the country on his behalf, and did it so badly that Russia is in crisis now..."

The new party, called the Russian Popular Republican Party, would avoid the extremes of both left and right, he said, and had substantial financial backing. Gen Lebed, although popular, knows that he lacks a pan-Russian organisation...

directed at Mr Zyuganov's supporters as well as those fed up with Kremlin intrigues. Asked who would support him, he gave a diverse list of potential supporters...

"We will seek the support of small and medium-sized business, big private industry, the armed forces, the military-industrial complex, the intelligentsia," he told a news conference in the village of Golitsyno, outside Moscow...

While parties in Russian politics are ten a penny - Gen Lebed has founded two previous movements - his strident attack is a threat to Mr Yeltsin. Gen Lebed has thrown political caution to the wind, sensing that the end of Mr Yeltsin's second term as president may be fast approaching...

He is now using the same language about Mr Yeltsin, his former political partner, as Mr Yeltsin's disgraced former bodyguard Alexander Korzhakov...

Gen Lebed gave further backing to Gen Korzhakov yesterday by saying that he now thought he was right to try to arrest two party workers, who were caught taking \$235,000 from the White House during the election campaign.

Netherlands faces looming EU deadlines

The margin for failure is narrow, writes John Palmer in his second report on the new EU presidency

RECEIVED no congratulations from other governments on assuming the European Union presidency - only heartfelt commiserations - only the Dutch foreign minister, Hans van Mierlo, has a lugubrious sense of humour, but faces the greatest challenge of its 40-year membership of the EU when it takes over the presidency on New Year's Day...

With the deadline for the single currency and a new EU treaty drawing near, the Dutch know that the margin separating a successful presidency from a disaster is unacceptably slim. As experienced members can go wrong, they went badly wrong during the last Dutch presidency, at a crucial stage in the Maastricht treaty negotiations in 1991...

The Netherlands has traditionally been seen as being in the EU's integrationist vanguard. This was always an over-simplification, as selected by the periodic alliances struck by Margaret Thatcher and her Dutch opposite number, the Christian Democrat Ruud Lubbers. Chancellor Helmut Kohl never forgave Mr Lubbers for bowing to British obstructionism in the Maastricht treaty negotiations, particularly over Britain's single currency and social policy opt-outs...

Bickering stalls Balkan projects

Richard Thomas in Washington

THE World Bank is ready to install a senior adviser in the office of the international community's High Representative in Bosnia in an attempt to defuse inter-agency bickering and secure additional money from donor countries for reconstruction efforts...

Ahead of a meeting of key donors in London in a fortnight, the bank is anxious to end rows with the High Representative, Carl Bildt, which are blocking reconstruction efforts...

"There has been tension," a World Bank source said. "The High Rep's office has taken a purely political approach, whereas we are more interested in moving beyond imposing the terms of the Dayton peace accord into economic rebuilding..."

bank officials are critical of his inflexibility. By beefing up its Bosnian operation, the World Bank - which is providing nearly a third of the aid and loans to the former Yugoslavia - hopes to increase the pressure on donors who are meeting on January 5...

"We are leading by example," the bank source said. target for 1997, and the total of \$5.2 billion pledged before the end of the century...

"It is not going to be an easy process," the bank source said. World Bank officials warn that, unless there is swift agreement to the new funding, reconstruction will be stalled. The move follows months of bickering between the implementation teams on the ground and contributing countries, who want to see concrete results...

In another attempt to increase international interest, earlier this month the World Bank cleared three new loans aimed at reconstructing the shattered economy. At least half of all workers are still jobless. A new flagship World Bank project, which will be highlighted at the London meeting, is designed to restore investors' confidence. It will underwrite the risk of renewed conflict to business, in an attempt to lure foreign capital...

The mayor of Tuzla has told bank visitors that a detergent factory outside his town could be profitable in a few months, given the start-up money. "They don't want charity, they want to get back on their feet again," a World Bank employee said. Background papers for the London meeting warn of a mismatch between needs and funds, and point out that in the years since the end of the conflict, little money has gone to Srpska, with a "regional bias" in favour of other Bosnian areas...

Exiles abandoned to a bitter fate

Richard Thomas in Shabunda

Refugees in central Zaire face profound hardship because agencies are no longer helping them, writes Richard Nicoll in Shabunda

RESIDENTS of the remote, isolated town of Shabunda in the heart of the Congo delta watched the Dakota lift off from their grass air strip on Thursday, carrying away the Red Cross mission to a 50,000-strong refugee camp that has developed nearby...

To get food into the camp at Shabunda, the relief agency had to fly supplies from Kinshasa, the military headquarters for the area. The trips were hampered by rain, often making the runway unusable. Once on the ground, the boxes had to be taken by canoe across the murky Ubangi, a tributary of the Congo, and then carried by hand three miles to the camp...

"It is not a logistical nightmare," said one of the Red Cross staff. "It's practically a logistical impossibility." The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is showing little willingness to help. The UN refugee agency's plane was seen recently at Shabunda's airstrip, although its representative chose not to visit the camp...

Rwanda genocide trial opens

RWANDA'S first genocide trial opened in Kibungo, south-east of Kigali, yesterday with the accused facing the death penalty if convicted of taking part in the slaughter in 1994 of some 800,000 Tutsis along with moderate Hutus...

cast live the opening of the trial of Deo Bizimana, a former medical assistant, and Egide Gatanzu, a former administrator, both accused of organising massacres. They are the first suspects to be tried under a genocide law. - Reuters.

News in brief

Belgium seeks ex-Mossad agent

THE Belgian government wants to question a former Mossad agent concerning the killing in 1980 of an American scientist who allegedly worked on a long-range gun for Iraq at the time of his death, an Israeli newspaper said yesterday. The Yediot Aharovot newspaper said the Belgian government sent a request to Canadian authorities to question a former Mossad agent, Victor Ostrovsky, who now lives in Ottawa, about the death of Gerald Bull, an arms dealer and weapons expert...

France to quit Iraq exercise

FRANCE is to withdraw from a Western air reconnaissance operation over Kurdish areas of northern Iraq - a decision that may prompt accusations that it wants to dominate future trade overtures with Baghdad. After refusing for several days to say whether it would continue to take part in "Provence Cleared" - an operation over Kurdistan which began after the 1991 Gulf war - the French foreign ministry yesterday confirmed its withdrawal. The decision to withdraw from the mission - a joint effort by the United States, Turkey, Britain and France - marks the latest diplomatic rift between Paris and Washington. - Alex Duval Smith, Paris.

Deaths from cold a 'disgrace'

THE death of a fifth homeless person in three days of record low temperatures prompted a call yesterday for public buildings to be opened urgently across France. Abbé Pierre, an octogenarian priest and campaigner for the poor, told French radio: "The deaths are a disgrace - proof of what happens when we refuse, even in good weather, to acknowledge the presence of these people. The government must immediately order railway and metro stations to be opened and heated day and night, and any other public buildings which are available." - Alex Duval Smith, Paris.

South Korean strikes spread

SOUTH KOREA'S biggest group of labour unions yesterday threw its 1.2 million-strong membership behind a nationwide strike until the end of the year, while the government and employers sought to soothe workers' anger. Nurses at 14 hospitals joined strikers that have almost halted production of cars and ships and that threaten chaos when bus drivers and underground staff walk out today. More than 15,000 workers raised their clenched fists at a rally in Seoul, chanting anti-government slogans as they vented their fury against a new labour law which was passed on Thursday. - Reuters, Seoul.

Doll chews girl's scalp clean

A battery-operated Cabbage Patch Doll that can chew had to be taken apart piece by piece when it munched a girl's hair up to her scalp and wouldn't let go. Sarah Stevens, aunt and the owner of the hair salon in Griffith, Indiana, where the incident took place took 30 minutes to free Sarah. Sarah, aged seven, was shaken but unhurt. "I have a little headache," she said. Glenn Borchart, a spokesman for the doll's maker, Mattel Inc, said that the toy is safe and that he knows of no other safety complaints about it. - AP, Griffith, Indiana.

# Gingrich UN offer linked to reform

Martin Walker in Washington

**N**EWTT GINGRICH, the controversial Republican speaker of the House, has offered President Bill Clinton a deal allowing the United States to pay off the \$1.4 billion (\$375 million) it owes the United Nations, as the seal on an agreement to pursue a bipartisan foreign policy which could cut America's share of the UN budget.

According to White House sources, the offer was made at a private meeting before Christmas and has yet to win the backing of powerful Republican senators. It could also run into trouble because of the controversial cuts the Republicans are seeking in the state department's overall budget.

Mr Gingrich offered his "best endeavours" to steer the payment of the US arrears through Congress, in return for firm guarantees of future UN reform. In particular, Mr Gingrich wants the White House to follow the example of other UN members and start billing the organisation for the logistical, intelligence and munitions support that the US provides freely to UN peacekeeping operations.

These represent large sums of money. In 1994 the US was calculated to have provided \$1.2 billion of the UN's total \$3.6 billion peacekeeping budget. But the Pentagon's own figures claim it provided another \$1.7 billion in personnel, equipment and other support. This came directly from the Pentagon budget, although much of it would have been spent anyway.

Under the new formula being proposed by Mr Gingrich, the US could claim that, for from owing \$1.2 billion for peacekeeping in 1994, it was owed \$500 million by the UN.

The Republicans are also being advised by Jeanne Kirkpatrick, the conservative former UN ambassador under President Ronald Reagan, that the UN's decision to charge the US 31.7 per cent of the overall (and separate) peacekeeping budget should be challenged. The US pays only 25 per cent of the general budget.

These figures are all to be subject to negotiation — both with the UN and between the White House and Congress — so that the US can speak with one voice, as Mr Gingrich has urged.

But negotiations will be complicated by the separate row over the state department budget and other international spending, including foreign aid. Spend-

ing in real terms has already declined by 40 per cent in the past decade. The 1996 budget-balancing resolution passed by Congress last year would cut the remaining balance by a further 30 per cent over the next six years.

The effects of these cuts have been dramatic. Funds for the Central American peace process had to be raided to aid the West Bank and Gaza. Aid to Turkey was cut to pay for the military intervention in Haiti. The Rwanda operation forced a 15 per cent cut in all other funds for Africa.

"By any measure, the new cuts would profoundly reduce America's stature as a world power," Howard Berman, a Democratic member of the House international relations committee, warned yesterday.

"Either aid to Israel would have to be reduced, affecting Israel's military capacity and the peace process, or foreign aid to almost every other country would have to be eliminated. Either 12 of our largest embassies or 100 of the smallest would have to be closed."

The issue is also influenced by domestic politics, since Mr Gingrich's apology to the House ethics committee for misleading their inquiry into his dubious use of charitable funds for political purposes has jeopardised his prospects of being re-elected Speaker on January 7.

Mr Clinton — who sees an advantage in having the Republican majority led by a bruised and ethically embarrassed Speaker as Congress investigates his own fundraising embarrassments — could help reconcile some Democrats to Mr Gingrich's re-election.

The Republicans, meanwhile, appear content with Mr Clinton's nominations of Speaker as Congress Secretary of State, and Bill Richardson as the new ambassador to the UN.

Noting that the Republicans had no serious differences with the administration's policy on promoting free trade, enlarging NATO, and trying to encourage reform in China through constructive engagement and trade, Mr Gingrich told the president that it was important to stop the UN being "an irritant" in domestic politics.

Only two years ago, Mr Gingrich denounced the UN as "a failed institution in its current form, with grotesque aspirations to be a world government". That view can still be heard among Republicans, but has been softened by opinion polls, which show two-thirds of voters support the UN in principle.

**Peruvian siege reveals horror of prison life**

As the hostage crisis continues, Mary Beth Sheridan in Lima looks at the demand to improve rebels' jail conditions

**T**ILIA POLAY will never forget the shock of seeing her son Victor after his 14 months of solitary confinement.

He had lost 60 lb, she said. He could barely see after being imprisoned in the dark for so long. And he complained that security forces had beaten him so badly they had broken his collar bone.

Even today, a year later, the convicted Tupac Amaru terrorist is restricted to a 6-ft-by-8-ft space. "They're not cells, they're tombs," said his mother, who is permitted to visit him for half an hour a month.

The seizure by leftwing guerrillas of the Japanese ambassador's residence has focused attention on the Tupac Amaru group and the conditions in which its members are held.

Most analysts consider it unlikely that President Alberto Fujimori, who has fiercely fought terrorism, will release rebel leaders from jail. But some say improving prison conditions could help solve the crisis.

"This is an elemental condition [for the rebels]," said Jaime Antezana, an expert on guerrillas.

While condemning the hostage-taking, Peru's Roman Catholic Church declared that the rebels' insistence on improved prison conditions was "reasonable".

International Red Cross officials also complained that, since the crisis began, the Peruvian government had

banned their usual jail visits checking on terrorism convicts. Steven Anderson, a spokesman, said the agency was "making representations at the highest levels" about the visits.

The Tupac Amaru has consistently condemned the treatment of imprisoned guerrillas and asked, in vain, for telephone contact with them.

Mrs Polay, who runs a hardware store in the Lima suburb of Callao, said even her once-a-month visits to her son had been cut off.

Since his imprisonment, her son, aged 44, has been denied telephone contact with his family and can exercise on a patio for only half an hour a day, she said. The rest of the time he is locked in his cell, receiving meals through a small trap-door and using a hole in the floor for a toilet, she said.

"For 23½ hours a day, he's in a tomb," she declared.

President Fujimori established the prison regime for the guerrillas as part of a broad crackdown in 1992. The system allows rebels to be denied family contact for a year. Even after that, few visits are permitted and prisoners are allotted only 60 cents (40p) a day of food, Susana Silva, of the government's new human rights office, said.

"We have various cases of people going crazy," she said. "You can imagine 23½ hours in a place that's completely closed, having nowhere to walk, no chance to talk."

Still, few Peruvians protest against the prisoners' conditions. Many credit Mr Fujimori's tough approach with crippling the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) rebels, whose war against the state claimed nearly 30,000 lives in the early 1980s.

The Tupac Amaru are not considered as fanatical as Sendero Luminoso. But they receive little public sympathy. — Los Angeles Times

# Latin America's longest war ends - but at a price



A Guatemalan guerrilla, years younger than the war in which he fought, considers a future without the gun at an encampment south of Guatemala City. PHOTOGRAPH: KIMBERLY WHITE

# Guatemala's 'peace without justice'

Paul Gussow, Latin America Correspondent

**O**NE of the world's longest running wars officially ends tomorrow with the signing in Guatemala City of a peace treaty between the government of President Alvaro Arzú and the guerrillas of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG).

The war, which has been waged with varying degrees

of intensity since November 1960, is generally believed to have cost about 200,000 lives and to have displaced 1 million people, both within Guatemala and into exile in Mexico and Honduras.

It began with an officers' revolt against the military regime led by General Miguel Ydígoras Fuentes, installed after a 1954 coup backed by the United States. But it was not until more than 30 years later that the army formally returned to the barracks.

Since the restoration of

civilian rule in 1986, the process of putting an end to Central America's last big conflict has been protracted and halting. The present peace process sponsored by the United Nations, which has cost millions of pounds, began in 1991 and the results have not been to everyone's satisfaction.

"The greater loser from the signing of the peace will be Guatemalan society," said a leading human rights advocate, Ronald Chocasta of the Catholic archdiocese, reflecting a widely held view that

the agreement has reinforced the impunity of those who committed atrocities during the conflict.

Rigoberta Menchú, the Guatemalan indigenous leader who was awarded the Nobel peace prize, is among those who have formed an "alliance against impunity" to protest against the national reconciliation law passed earlier this month which establishes an amnesty.

"I am against a general amnesty," Ms Menchú said when the ceasefire was signed.

"I think peace without justice is only a symbolic peace."

The amnesty law appears to rule out prosecution of those responsible for the army and police atrocities that cost thousands of lives, especially in the counter-insurgency massacres of the early 1980s.

But the URNG leader, Rodrigo Asturias, defended the treaty, saying "the costs of reconciliation are painful but necessary". The guerrilla commander said he believed that in time people would come to understand the "true

meaning" of the accord.

Cmdr Asturias did not rule out the possibility of an eventual split among the four factions which make up the guerrilla front. The URNG, whose combatants probably number less than 2,000, intends to transform itself into a political party.

In the early 1980s the guerrillas controlled large areas of the Guatemalan highlands, but were almost wiped out in a scorched-earth campaign under the dictatorship of General Efraín Ríos Montt.

# Urban disciples revive fortunes of Colombian shaman

Jeremy Lennard in Bogotá reports on yage, a jungle hallucinogen seducing the middle classes

**D**RESSED in flowing traditional robes and a jaguar-tooth necklace, Siona rolls his eyes and chants, his concentration focused on a staff of macaw feathers and leaves which he holds in outstretched hands.

Siona is one of the last shamans of the Kamza rain forest Indians, who inhabit the Sibundoy valley in southern Colombia.

His disciples join the chant as he leaps up. He shakes his wand over their heads, and administers a thimbleful of vile-tasting brown liquid to each.

In a ritual which dates back 1,000 years, the Indians have gathered to take yage — a powerful hallucinogen and purgative central to their religious rites. The drug, extracted by boiling the bark of a jungle vine, induces profoundly altered states: the participant's soul appears to leave

his body in animal form and embark on a magical, cleansing journey.

"We all have the pure spirit of the animal world inside us," says Siona. "Our souls ascend into this domain, where we maintain communication with our ancestors. The spirits show us divine truth and guide us through our terrestrial lives in harmony."

As Colombia strives to join the ranks of the developed world, such ceremonies are in rapid decline. But yage, like coca before it, has survived the transition from the ancient to the modern world. It may not join cocaine as a multi-million-pound earner for the mafia, but the drug is becoming increasingly popular in mainstream Colombian society.

Shamans now travel regularly to Bogotá, where they have found new disciples in the professional

classes. In hundreds of dimly lit middle-class living rooms, executives in sharp suits have been getting cosmic together.

"Yage has been popular for many years among the bohemian circle of artists, actors and writers," says Pedro Chindoy who has studied the spread of the drug.

William Burroughs and Alan Ginsberg experimented with it, and wrote a book on their experiences. But Mr Chindoy observes, yage's wider popularity is a recent phenomenon.

"In many ways, a drug which binds body and soul so strongly with nature is strangely out of place in a city like Bogotá," he says. "But maybe it is the complete escape from one's urban surroundings, and the subsequent feeling of cleansing, which is so appealing."

Jorge, an architectural salesman, agrees. He has taken yage several times and feels it has changed his personality. "I have seen deep inside myself, and faced the conflicts taking place there," he says.

"I understand myself and who has never been back to the sessions."

Mr Osorio and his colleague Javier Lasso are yage devotees. They have been attending weekly rituals for more than a year and are "in training" to become shamans.

This is a lengthy process: the would-be medicine men must first learn how to call up the spirits. They must also assess their disciples' tolerance of the drug, using weight, metabolism and psychological state to determine the right dosage.

"When you take yage, you must put yourself entirely in the hands of the shaman," Mr Osorio says.

"You are at his mercy."

Unlike many habitual users of hallucinogenics, he and Mr Lasso seem surprisingly down-to-earth. But their paintings are vivid representations of their visions. Mr Osorio assumes the form of a crocodile, Mr Lasso a condor. Both are waited on by lesser creatures.

Their paintings do not show the unpleasant initial effect of yage. As a purgative, it induces violent vomiting and diarrhoea.

It is hard to imagine Roberto and friends coping with this among the white-leather sofas and deep-pile carpets of fashionable north Bogotá.

A bank manager who had visions of fire and brimstone has never been back

Yage is also attracting attention from medical researchers. Researchers are investigating indigenous claims that the so-called "vine of the soul" has wide-ranging medicinal properties.

Scientists in the United States have recently discovered that harmaline, one of its active components, is effective against Leishmaniasis, a parasite-borne disease affecting the skin.

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International Red Cross officials also complained that, since the crisis began, the Peruvian government had



Indonesian firefighters tackle a church set ablaze during riots in Tasikmalaya, West Java. PHOTOGRAPH: PIRKAN RANAYAT

# Rioting Indonesians target non-Muslims

John Agltonby in Jakarta

**R**IOTS rocked the Indonesian province of West Java for the second consecutive day yesterday in what appeared to be racially motivated violence against the local Christians and Chinese.

Dozens of angry Muslims looted and torched a number of shops in the small town of Ciawi, 125 miles south-east of the capital Jakarta, before hundreds of troops and police restored order.

No deaths were reported but it emerged that two people had died in Thursday's mass unrest in the nearby town of Tasikmalaya. One was a Chinese woman, aged 45, who was burnt alive trying to save her car-parts shop from an angry mob.

The violence was provoked by rumours that police in Tasikmalaya had beaten up three Islamic teachers, apparently for disciplining one of the officers' sons.

Thousands of people rampaged through the town for 12 hours on Thursday. They

burnt 13 churches, seven schools, dozens of banks, car showrooms and shops, and stoned the police station.

Most of the properties were owned by Christians or people of Chinese descent. Chinese are resented in Indonesia because they make up fewer than 3 per cent of the 195 million population but control almost 75 per cent of the economy.

The rioters scrawled graffiti on walls saying "No to Jesus", "No to Jews" and "Police are supercorrupt". More than 150 people were detained.

Three thousand security personnel closed off much of Tasikmalaya yesterday, which was described as "calm but tense" by locals.

President Suharto called for calm and religious unity last night in what is the world's largest Muslim country.

Speaking at a post-Christmas civil ceremony, he said: "I believe that most religious people in this country are able to control themselves... but they should be mature and practise self-restraint,

avoiding activities that can create resentment among other people."

Analysts, however, said the riots were economically and socially — not racially — motivated. A sociologist, Sardjono Jatinan, blamed legal injustices, social tension and increasing disparity of wealth.

He said: "Not many people realise these problems can trigger social upheaval. But once they accumulate, even the smallest thing can spark off unrest."

Easan Basri, chairman of the Indonesian Ulama Council, said the violence had nothing to do with religion. "I'm convinced unscrupulous and irresponsible persons mobilise the masses to become destructive," he said, though without naming anyone.

The violence comes two months after five people died in similar rioting in the East Java town of Situbondo. Twenty-five churches were razed there after the mob became incensed at the light sentence handed down to a man accused of blasphemy against the Koran.

**News in brief**

**US airports get X-ray scanners**

Sophisticated X-ray machines designed to detect explosives in checked baggage will begin arriving in United States airports next month.

The Federal Aviation Administration said 54 machines will be built and installed in 1997. — AP.

**Rowdy passenger**

Canadian police said a flight from Europe to Chicago was diverted to Goose Bay, Newfoundland, after a drunken 41-year-old man from Blackpool allegedly assaulted an elderly passenger. The man had to be restrained by the crew. — AP.

**McDonald's attack**

A gunman charged into a McDonald's restaurant in Vallejo, California, and shot three female employees in the head before escaping, police said. One of the victims, aged 17, is in a critical condition and the others are stable. — AP.

**Out of tune**

A Dutch woman, aged 55, became so enraged with her husband singing the carol Silent Night for several hours that she stabbed him in the chest, police said. He is recovering in hospital. — Reuter.

ملکت من الامم

Jean-Pierre Guerlain

The essence of success

Jean-Pierre Guerlain who has died aged 91, was born into a flourishing family business based on the new and exciting turn of the century need for a range of make-up and toiletry products which could be used by a lady without putting her at risk of being confused with a courtesan.

headed by a team of highly qualified scientists. He was the first cosmetic manufacturer to introduce expiry dates for his products. He continued to produce the perfumes which were considered the bedrock of any French beauty house. In 1929 came L'air, it was soon the most popular scent in Europe among the sophisticated and wealthy. It symbolised the elegant - even arrogant - feminine assurance of screen actresses like Dietrich, Garbo and Carole Lombard.



Jean-Pierre Guerlain... the firm bearing his name has created more than 300 fragrances



Jean-Pierre Guerlain... the firm bearing his name has created more than 300 fragrances

Giuseppe Dossetti

Ethical society Italian-style

GIUSEPPE Dossetti, who has died aged 83, was a teacher and politician, a founding father of the Italian republic and guiding spirit of left-wing Italian Catholicism.



Dossetti... austere figure

Disgusted with the turn of events, Dossetti abandoned politics in 1961. This pale and austere figure, absolutely committed to a utopian vision of an ethical society, had become out of step with an increasingly hedonistic Italy. In 1968 he became a monk and founded a small community in the Emilia - The Small Family of the Annunciation.

Michael Economides

Strong voice against fascism

FAMILY last month Michael Economides, who has died aged 96, read a poem to 12,000 people in Madrid's Palace of Sports. The occasion was a concert in honour of the International Brigades on the 50th anniversary of the Spanish Civil War.

Cyprus for Latin America, but an attack of conjunctivitis delayed him in Madrid and he decided to go on to London. He arrived in 1929 and found it difficult to get a job, which together with anti-colonialist strivings in Cyprus, and the Daily Worker, politicised him.

Back in England, he became active in the struggle for Cyprus's independence, was a founder member and secretary of the Committee for Cyprus Affairs, and helped to found the Cyprus newspaper Vema. In 1966 he was in the Cypriot delegation - which also included Cyprus's current president, Glafkos Clerides - at the Paris Peace Conference.

Between 1948 and 1968 he had a restaurant and after his marriage in 1953 to Bernice Holmes he ran it with her. There was a relationship of deep love and loyalty. In retirement Michael enjoyed pottery and drawing but his big garden was his pride. He is survived by his wife, his son and daughter-in-law Clara, and two grandchildren.

Weekend Birthdays

IF YOUR mother was a columnist (Anne Scott James) and your father a care respondent (Macdonald Hastings), your chances of ending up in journalism must be fairly high. So it was for Max Hastings, 51 today, whose only other ambition - to be a paratrooper - was frustrated by his great height. Critics (and there are many) say that even after more than 10 years as a newspaper editor, first at the Daily Telegraph, now the London Evening Standard, his quest to be a gentleman spy and care respondent (a sort of latter-day Winston Churchill) remains frustrated. Friends (of whom there are more) counter that he's just too good a hack to be a



Max Hastings... insufficiently Eurosceptic to satisfy Conrad Black and so fiercely competitive that he drives colleagues into paroxysms, he retains that key quality of good reporter

era - an anarchic sense of irreverence to authority of left and right. Never short of controversial opinions, he relies on an endless stream of accepted one-liners to rescue him from tight corners. To a colleague who wrote a eulogy on the occasion of his death, he once jotted Murdoch's Sunday Times, he wrote: "We're all just piano-players in neighbouring brothels." On capturing Fort Stanley at the climax of the Falklands War (in Churchillian vein, his finest hour) he announced to the waiting marines: "It was like liberating a suburban golf club."

Intikhab Alam, Pakistan cricket manager, 85; Lew Ayres, actor, 86; Terry Butcher, football manager, 58; William Camps, former master, Pembroke College, Cambridge, 86; Donald Carr, Central Empire, 79; Sandra Faber, American astronaut, 52; Thomas Gould VC, 82; Roy Hattersley, Labour MP, journalist, 64; Noel Johnson, actor, 90; Nigel Kennedy, violinist, 48; Frances Morris, former leader, I.L.S.A., 59; Hildegard Neff, actress, singer and writer, 71; Bridget Prentice, Labour MP, 44; Simon Raven, author, playwright, 88; Joan Radstock, Labour MP, 53; Dame Maggie Smith, actress, 62; Richard Sud-

halter, writer, jazz musician, 58; the Rt Rev Bill Westwood, broadcaster and former Bishop of Peterborough, 71. Tomorrow's birthdays: June, Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair (June Gordon), musical director and conductor, 83; Andrew Bache, ambassador to Denmark, 57; Lord Beauchamp, former treasurer, Conservative Party, 48; David Boom, cricketer, 36; Sir Samuel Brittan, economic commentator, 63; Bernard Cribbins, actor, 68; Keith Crossan, rugby player, 37; Ann Demeulemeester, fashion designer, 37; Baroness Denton, Northern Ireland

Economy Minister, 61; Marianna Faithfull, singer, 50; Roger Hart, ambassador to Angola, 53; Sir Simon Horby, president, Royal Horticultural Society, 62; Terry Lewis, Labour MP, 61; Mary Tyler Moore, television executive and actress, 60; Martin Offiah, Rugby League international, 30; Iain Paxton, rugby player, 38; Rosalind Preston, former president, National Council of Women of Great Britain, 61; Peter Robinson, Democratic Unionist MP, 48; Alan Rusbridger, editor, the Guardian, 43; the Rt Rev Mark Santer, Bishop of Birmingham, 52; Harvey Smith, showjumper, 55; Jon Voight, actor, 58.

Face to Faith

Pagans and the first festival of light

Apollo's oracle at Delphi. Earlier forms of Pagan religion had already given the Gracchian Roman world the three great year-end festivals which have endured into modern times. These have been adopted subsequently by different belief systems such as modern Christianity, secularism and Paganism.

Our customs of giving presents, having fun and games, and holding a ceremonial feast at midwinter comes directly from the Roman Saturnalia (December 17), probably the oldest festival of them all. The Romans understood Saturn to be their ancestor, god of agriculture and of plenty, and sometimes (wrongly) explained his name as being that of the god of the seeds which were sown at about this time. The ritual gift-giving was understood as a redistribution of wealth from rich to poor at the seasonal time of greatest

hardship. Likewise the feasting, at which richer neighbours entertained the poor and poorer people shared their meagre reserves to create a larger meal than they could have had alone.

The satirist Lucian even suggested that before each Saturnalia the rich should ceremonially purge their homes of greed, then formally invoke the blessings of three gods: Zeus, giver of wealth, Hermes the bestower, and Apollo of the great gifts. The ancients not only complained, as we do, of the crass materialism of this season, but were able to propose a religious ceremony to transform greed into generosity with the help of the gods.

than the appearance of universal death. Rites may vary from a simple meditation to a full-scale ceremony enacting the return of the goddess or god of the sun, but the principle is the same: that at this point in the scheme of things, darkness will give way to illumination.

celebrates new life. All these features still characterise modern year-end festivities, although masquerades has moved to Christmas pantomimes and the few remaining mummers' plays. New Year is a time of purification and invocation, letting go of what is old and calling in what is good. "Out with the old, in with the new," people shout as they toast the season, calling not on Janus but on Old Father Time with his sickle to mow down the past.

Prudence Jones

THE PAGAN revels of the year's end have a long history and a deep meaning. From the solstice eve (December 20) to New Year's Day a series of festivals dispel the winter's gloom and hardship, and celebrate the imminent return of the light.

Engagements

ROBERTSON/ROBERTSON. We are pleased to announce the engagement of Lauren Robertson, daughter of Ian Robertson and Mrs Margaret Robertson, originally of Irvine, Scotland, to Paul Robertson, son of Anthony and Isabelle Sykes of Glasgow.

Deaths Notices

LYNETTE - Sadly, aged 80, on Sunday morning, 22nd December, very peacefully, after a long illness, in St Joseph's Hospital, Glasgow, the late Mrs Lynette Robertson, nee Sykes, who was a devoted wife and mother, and a loving friend to all who knew her. Her funeral will be held on Wednesday, 27th December, at 11.00 am, in the Glasgow Necropolis, Glasgow. Her husband, Mr James Robertson, died 1978. Her children, Mrs Margaret Robertson and Mrs Mary Robertson, are both predeceased. Her grandchildren, Mrs Margaret Robertson and Mrs Mary Robertson, are both predeceased. Her great-grandchildren, Mrs Margaret Robertson and Mrs Mary Robertson, are both predeceased. Her great-great-grandchildren, Mrs Margaret Robertson and Mrs Mary Robertson, are both predeceased.

Engagements

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The parenting deficit

Hail the Family Minister: Who?

JACK STRAW made a basic error: timing. If only he had held his discussion paper on parenting back for just six more weeks, he would have received a more sympathetic hearing.

It is now 20 years since Mia Kellmer Pringle, the former director of the National Children Bureau, wryly noted that just because we have once been children does not mean we know how to bring children up.

All commentators should be wary of political parties wanting to tell parents how to bring up families. But this was not what was proposed. The main aim was to extend existing voluntary schemes, improve parenting education in schools, and increase access to advice lines.

Santa's gravy sleigh

High on pay, low on people

THERE is one event that, sadly, is becoming as predictable as Christmas and the New Year: the annual survey of salaries showing how those at the top are feathering their own nests at the expense of those below.

Such maldistribution of incomes wouldn't matter so much if high pay encouraged directors to take risks they wouldn't otherwise have made in order to increase the wealth available to everyone in the company.

Letters to the Editor

Non-personality of the year

THERE is something seriously wrong with our country when a professional politician, who after all is only doing a rather mediocre job, is voted Personality of the Year ahead of such shining examples as Lisa Potts, Angus Sutt, Kyr, Frances Lawrence, Anne Pearson, or indeed many others who have given inspiration and hope.

doesn't matter to most of us, and it shouldn't take such prominence. Incidentally, I would bet there was an organised campaign for Aung San Suu Kyi too.

FOUR thousand dodgy votes rejected for the winner of the Today Personality of the Year poll and the result is allowed to stand. A leaked copy of a fax exhorting members and activists to vote and the prospective recipient is disqualified. Isn't it time that the BBC moved its poll to a more suitable time of year, such as the very, very beginning of April?

granted to die the same number repeatedly. Assuming that it would take 10 seconds to complete one call, and allowing for half of the calls to meet an engaged signal, one computer could register 360 votes in two hours.

Why stopping the clicks on the phone won't save us

I AM not surprised that there is cross-party support for the "new" powers in the Police Bill. Like Meg Henderon (How I became a dangerous terrorist, December 19), nearly half the population of Brightonians became "dangerous terrorists" when Essex Police, with solid backing from the Government, forced unwanted live export convoys through our little port for most of 1995.

all likewise with Opposition figures. Alan Michael MP (Letters, December 21) does nothing to reassure us that New Labour will do anything more to ensure the proper use of power and a sensibly prioritised approach to crime and terrorism. More likely, they will continue to abuse the law and deny responsibility — just like political leaders.

GAVE up listening to Today because it seemed to have an excessive sense of self-importance. Its poll is not newsworthy; it is just gossip.

PERSONAL computer equipped with a modem and telephone line can be pro-

NOTE that 76.5 per cent of Today listeners participating did not vote for John Major. Had there been an alternative vote run-out, one of the other nominees would doubtless have won. Is this a case for electoral reform?

IN order for anyone to win the Today Personality of the Year Award, should they not possess one first?

A market as safe as houses

PETER Kenway and Guy Palmer (How government should put a brake on the housing cycle, December 23) suggest that history is destined to repeat itself with another downturn in the housing market and that the only way to avoid this is government intervention.

They have been doing with funding for housing associations and universities, to give just two examples. The CML view is that the future will not be like the past and that less money will be needed.



The space between words

THE arrogant ignorance and cultural condescension of Sebastian Faulks (Diary of the week, December 24) are all too common in the media world.

life trying to overcome the ignorance of science and the condescension towards scientists by the literati who dominate the media world.

They want controls on mortgage-rate increases, even though annual review schemes, fixed-rate mortgages and other devices already allow consumers to control costs. They want lenders to have a continuing obligation to those who lose their homes through possession. This ignores the fact that lenders have rescheduled thousands of loans to allow borrowers to avoid possession.

show in propelling their horses to the scene of carnage is chilling to see.

PLEASE include a full postal address and daytime telephone number, plus e-mail address if you have one, when writing letters.

coming under forest and self-conservation by the Hong Kong Wildlife Service is already rampant. It is particularly disappointing when British ministers keep talking about their interest and responsibilities in Hong Kong but without delivery.

Foxed by the hunters

STEPHEN Moss may have spent a day with the Beaufort Hunt (Scout of a battle, December 27) but I hope he does not think this means he now understands the hunt.

show in propelling their horses to the scene of carnage is chilling to see.

Auntie goes out in the world

WHILE most departments within the BBC World Service appear to have found a breathing space (Tensions eased by cash cover for World Service, December 27), the same cannot be said of the Cantonese service.

coming under forest and self-conservation by the Hong Kong Wildlife Service is already rampant.

Off to 1997 with a bang, a baby and a Bible



Mark Lawson

JUST as Christmas names often fix people in history — all those forty-year-old Mandy Allwoods, Diane Bloods drove Britain to think of morality.

marks of the nation's moral progress on their biggest day: December 25. On Wednesday, the Queen addressed a television and radio congregation, while the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Archbishop of York and the Roman Catholic Cardinal of Westminster spoke to cathedral crowds.

was in reference to Hamilton's sermon and institutional roots." However, Dr Carey was gladdened by what he saw as the prevalence of "spiritual refugees", who were "seeking a home".

ely "drift from its moral, historical and institutional roots." However, Dr Carey was gladdened by what he saw as the prevalence of "spiritual refugees", who were "seeking a home".

A Country Diary

MACCYNLETH: For my pre-Christmas walk I chose the sea cliffs, following a path through acres of gorse whose bright yellow flowers did their best to fool me into believing that spring was here already.

Bay were flecked with white horses and if there were dolphins leaping out there, as I had hoped, there were well concealed. Fulmars patrolled endlessly back and forth close to the cliffs, practising mock landings without ever achieving a touch down.

WILLIAM CONDRY

Handwritten text in Arabic script at the bottom of the page.





RICHARD THOMAS in Washington on Michael Bloomberg, the machine-made man

# Screen star basks in billionaire role

## Reputations

**M**ODESTY does not come easily to Michael Bloomberg. Reclining in the corner of a glass-partitioned meeting room at his Park Avenue headquarters, walls plastered with framed articles about himself, he takes a sip of coffee and says: "Every once in a while, I get kind of pleased with myself."

As he well might: in 15 years he has created a \$600 million (£37 million) financial information company which employs 2,000 people across the globe, in the process taking the props from underneath Reuters' long-standing hegemony ("Isn't that a little British company?") and making himself extremely rich.

"People say I'm worth a billion," he shrugs. "Just pick a number." At 53, Bloomberg is still as cocky as a teenager. He says he hasn't changed since the days he worked in the faculty car-park at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

"Maybe a few more grey hairs and wrinkles, a couple of extra pounds round the middle. But I'm still the same know-all as I ever was." His telephone manner is brisk: "Yep, speak. Don't care." Democratic Senator Barbara McCluskey? "Give her voice-mail."

Bloomberg is not the sort of man to rise smoothly through the ranks of a faceless corporation, as he discovered when he was thrown off Salomon's equity trading floor in 1981. "I kept going round saying I could run the company better than them, that they were getting it wrong," he explains. "I was pretty vocal."

Creating a media empire that spans trading screens, radio, magazines, TV and books has allowed him to hone his skills in self-publicity. Apart from simple satisfaction, the justification for the constant emphasis on the Bloomberg name is branding, one of the keys to the 30 per cent average growth posted by his empire in each of the past 15 years.

"Your name has to be known in this business," he explains. "It took Coca-Cola decades and billions. We are trying to do it in years with millions." Two 50ft wide Bloomberg screens are suspended over the concourse of Manhattan's Penn Station, relaying 24 hours a day the words of Mike Bloomberg.

The other secret has been to stay ahead of the curve, ahead of the next innovation. That is why much of his energy is devoted at present to building on the firm's small foothold in cable TV and piping visual images down to the Bloomberg "boxes" which, for \$1,140 a month, sit on dealing desks

providing real-time data, analysis and news. "You can't survive by keeping still. You can't just milk it," he says. And the future is TV. "If you get some high-school kid with a camera outside Congress, the only delay will be the congressman powdering his nose."

Bloomberg's relentless 12-hour-a-day energy infects the whole organisation. "It is a high-energy place," says one employee. Staff milling around the free snack-bars watch one of their trilingual newscasters deliver a bulletin from an empty studio. Using a hidden keyboard, she controls her own Autocue and graphics. One remote-control camera and some robots do the rest. No wonder the Independent on Sunday reporters were scared recently by rumours that Bloomberg was in the market to produce their business pages.

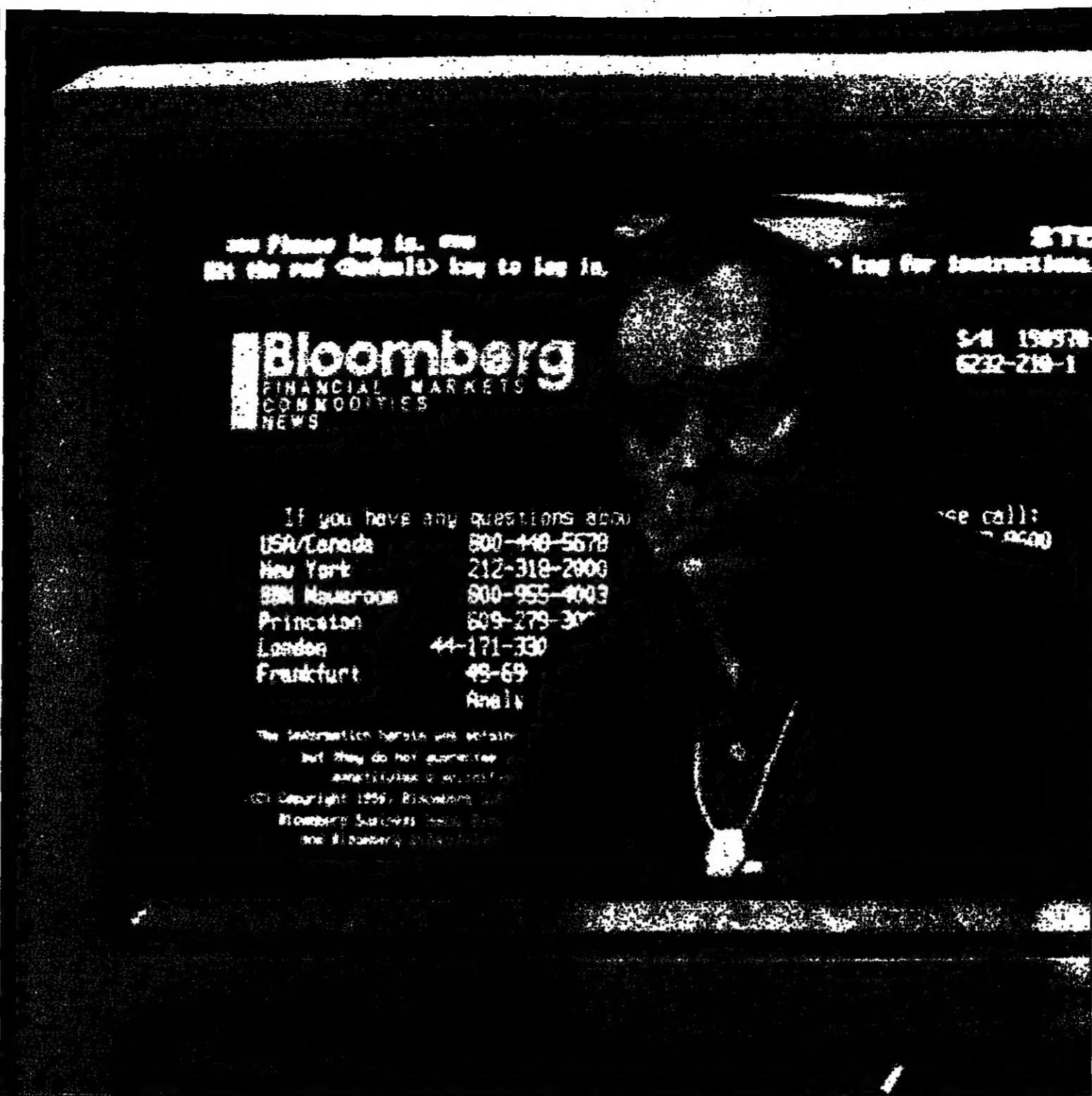
In the middle of the three-storey nerve-centre of the Bloomberg empire is a new work of art. Titled Natural Progression, it has glass tentacles sprouting across the newsroom — a constant reminder of Bloomberg's growing influence. "My ex-wife used to say that I went on vacation five days a week and then did two days' work with the family," he recounts. "There's something to that. I still can't wait for tomorrow morning."

And Mike Bloomberg is not content to collapse at the end of a working day. He is on the town every night, on this particular night to celebrate the birthday of his new girlfriend — about whom he is uncharacteristically coy, offering that she has left it too late in life to become a good skier.

"I like the theatre, dining and chasing women," he says. "Let me put it this way: I am a single, straight, billionaire in Manhattan. What do you think? It's like a wet dream." Then, in a quieter moment, he says the end of his 20-year marriage a few years ago is the only real regret in his life.

**S**O WHAT drives him to ever-greater endeavour? Why doesn't he just have a rest (most people find they are exhausted after an hour with him)? "There are people who do things simply because they want to do them," he says. "I could have retired after I left Salomon's — God knows I had more money than I could ever spend — but I didn't."

Part of his motivation stems, however, from a philanthropic instinct. On Christmas Eve, Bloomberg was named America's thirteenth most generous man — 10 places ahead of Ross Perot — after donating \$30 million to good causes during 1996. "My great love is philanthropy," he says. "Most of my money will be given away or into trust funds for my daughter." Last year, he gave \$55 million to Johns Hopkins. This year he endowed his other alma mater, Harvard, with \$3 million to establish a chair in philanthropy. The chair moves between departments every two years, which fits his constantly moving philosophy. Bloomberg got an



Bloomberg and his box: "Money still does not open all doors. There are some clubs I will never be able to join" (PHOTOMONTAGE: ROGER TOOTH)

MBA from the prestigious business school. "I'm always on the development committee of things, never the artistic one," he jokes. "People know what I'm there for. And that's just fine."

According to his worldview, government service or religious calling are philanthropic simply because the pay is dirt-poor. His role is to earn as much as he can in the private sector, because that is where his talent lies, and funnel it to the deserving.

One of the scientists on a project at Hopkins, funded by Bloomberg, is working on a cancer cure and is a contender for a Nobel prize. "This guy is on \$60,000 a year, has a ponytail and an earring. And he's going to get a Nobel prize," Bloomberg says, in amazement. "But it is my

money, so even though my name won't be on it, it'll be my prize, too." His generosity does not stem from religious conviction — "after my bar mitzvah I never went to temple again" — but does help him to justify the way he has devoted his

life to wealth-generation. He says his money stops 500,000 Third World children going blind every year, two million from getting potentially fatal diarrhoea. "Knowing that, I go to sleep every night with a smile on my face," he says.

Some of the powerful have benefited from Bloomberg's largesse, too. When Alan Greenspan's economic consultancy was going under in the 1980s and he was worrying about the money outstanding on the lease of his Bloomberg machine, generous Mike tore up the agreement. "Maybe one day you'll be in

the feeling he retains of being an outsider, a kid from the wrong side of the tracks, someone who has to prove himself continually. The son of a bookmaker, Bloomberg went to a state school and did not easily scale the walls of the Ivy League colleges.

He says he cannot imagine retiring. But he does fantasise about starting over. "I do think that perhaps I should give it all up and set myself up with a shoe-shine stall to see if I could do it again, or whether it was just luck." The fact that he cares whether it was luck or skill — and like

most success stories it contains a bit of both — betrays some insecurity in the middle-aged billionaire: Am I really as good as I think I am? And Bloomberg knows that for a certain WASPish segment of US society, he will remain the little Jewish kid from Boston, despite — or perhaps because of — his wealth. "Money still does not open all doors. No society is totally meritocratic. There are some clubs I will never be able to join," he says with just a hint of bitterness.

But he finds consolation in the fluid money-oriented society that is New York. Unlike most wealthy people, he does not feel boredom with being famous and sought-after. "If I go to a cocktail party, people want to talk to me. Do I mind? Are you kidding? I absolutely love it."

Again, fair enough. But more needs to be done. The problem of unemployment is not simply cyclical. Europe faces structural problems, too. Labour market flexibility may help (at least at the lower end of the pay scale), but increased and better education and training would be a more productive option. Former steel workers do not become software specialists just because they are prepared to work for next to nothing.

This is not simply a question of a new year wish-list. There are dangers in the EU becoming too focused on its own, immediately pressing concerns. Unless it pays attention, and is seen to pay attention, to the questions of enlargement and unemployment, the EU risks being perceived as exclusive. In the worst sense of the word, both at home and abroad.

Waiting for IGC... The livelihood of this peasant farmer in central Anatolia, Turkey, is likely to depend on tricky decisions by Europe's career politicians (PHOTOGRAPH: ROBIN LAURANCE)

## Enlargement will pose big questions for Europe

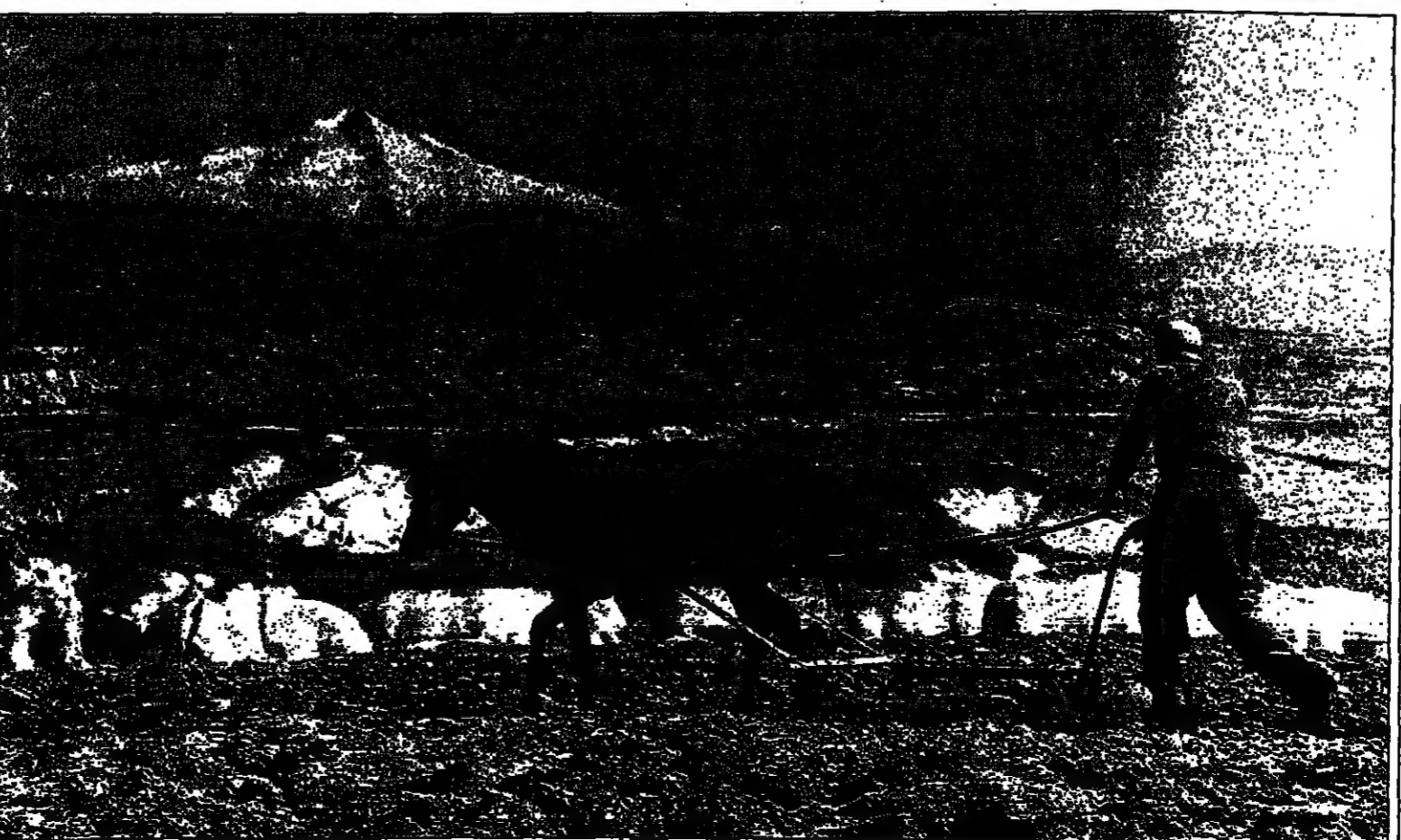
### Euro Eye

### Mark Milner

**F**OR the European Union, the coming year will be dominated by two issues: the inter-governmental conference and members' progress towards the criteria for monetary union. Both are important issues — the IGC is meant to provide a much-needed overhaul of the framework and structure within which EU business is conducted; 1997 is the year on which countries wishing to sign up for the single currency in 1999 will be judged. Neither the IGC nor Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) offers easy options.

Britain, as usual, is already setting its face against many of the changes likely to come before the IGC. Politicians and diplomats in Brussels and the other European capitals are, rather obviously, pinning their hopes on a change of government. However, they may find that if, as the opinion polls suggest, Labour is the next party in office, there will be no sudden volte-face on Europe.

Nor is Britain alone in pondering the problems ahead. The Dutch are less than enthusiastic about common drugs laws across Europe; France and Denmark are scarcely keener on a common immigration policy. Some of the smaller countries, too, are bound to be worried by French and German plans to change the EU's weighted voting system — which would, in effect, give bigger countries more say. The IGC process is meant to be concluded by the summer. Many think it will take longer than that. Even then, it may make less progress than hoped. Cycles are already muttering that it will be, in the words of one Brussels in-



ger two other crucial, related issues will be overlooked or neglected. Those issues are unemployment and enlargement. It could be argued that, without reform of the EU's institutions, the concept of enlargement — opening the membership door to countries in central and eastern Europe, for example — is nothing more than a chimera. The

point is a fair one, but reform cannot be determined in an EU vacuum. Whatever hurdles many of those wishing to join the EU have to clear (and they will be considerable in number and difficulty) the EU, too, will have to help. Look no further than the Common Agricultural Policy, one of the key areas of IGC scrutiny. Without radical

reform (such as slashing the subsidies doled out under its provisions) there is little prospect of central and eastern Europe being allowed into the Union. Yet, across Europe, farming lobbies wield formidable political clout. There will be no shortage of politicians prepared to will the end (enlargement), but there may be rather fewer prepared to will the means to

achieve that end. Yet the CAP issue cannot be decided on a captable fudge without damaging the prospects for enlargement. Many supporters of monetary union will argue that the single currency will provide a stimulus for jobs. Even those who are more sceptical believe the policies which must be followed to ensure qualifi-

## Digital info empire built on boxes

**T**HE Bloomberg empire is built on 70ft "Bloomberg boxes" which pipe information through two monitors to 67,000 users worldwide, writes Richard Thomas.

Subscribers receive, down a dedicated digital phone line, asset prices, analyses and quotes.

In 1981, Michael Bloomberg spotted a niche for instantaneous data which allowed dealers to compare products. His first crude machines, based on a computer program he developed at Salomon, simply offered stock and bond comparisons in terms of price and earnings.

In the fast-paced dealing rooms, Bloomberg machines soon took off, alongside traditional Reuters wire services.

As markets grew in complexity, so did the boxes, which now have more than 4,000 functions. For most of the 1990s, box sales grew by 40 per cent a year — giving the company room, and cash, to move into other areas.

By the end of the 1980s, Bloomberg realised that the next stage was to explain the data, to give money managers the stories behind the figures. Bloomberg poached Wall Street Journal reporter Matthew Winkler who once called his new employer "profane", and set up Bloomberg Business News which provides wire stories to dealers and other media outlets, including newspapers, radio stations and TV.

Now there are 400 reporters on Bloomberg's books and the company's boxes have a small TV screen pouring out news.

Bloomberg has established a business radio station in New York, which also provides news bulletins to 40 regional stations across the US. He publishes specialist newsletters and has just announced that he intends to produce business textbooks.

His television station is available to European satellite and cable users. The US satellite channel is augmented by slots on public television.

Bloomberg is determined to keep the company on the move, even at the risk of overextending. "There are always threats to your position," he says. "The man who says he is secure is soon a poor man."

من الاموال

THE REAL PICTURE/Philips' futuristic new semi-conductor plant relies on scientific excellence and hi-tech cleanliness. Photograph: Don McPhee/Words: Martyn Halsall



Few places have a stricter dress code than Philips Semiconductors in Stockport, Cheshire, where a £100 million investment programme is set to double output for the 21st century. Masked and gowned, their hands in vinyl gloves and feet in moon-boots, 70 engineers and production staff are each shift stocking and testing a "clean room" with an atmosphere 100 times purer than a hospital operating theatre. Clinical cleanliness is vital, said operations manager Gary Muzro. "Even a tiny piece of material, invisible to the eye, could destroy production of a batch of semiconductors worth up to £10,000."

Tories given double bonus

Home buyers and consumers begin to show feel-good spirit

THE Government's election hopes were boosted yesterday by further evidence of a buoyant housing market and soaring consumer confidence. The latest review of the housing sector by the Nationwide building society yesterday showed that prices rose by 8 per cent in 1996 and are set to increase by a further 7 per cent next year. A separate study, published today, predicts that the January sales are likely to be the fastest since the boom of 1988.

Other good year will be needed if the spirit of the 1980s is to return in full force.

But the Nationwide's survey, which showed house prices up 8.5 per cent in December, compared with a year ago, provided evidence that a key component of the feel-good factor was in place. The Nationwide said that, despite a small slip back of 0.3 per cent from November's level on a seasonally adjusted basis, the substantial upturn in confidence meant the housing recovery would strengthen. Philip Williamson, the society's marketing and commercial director, said: "Although it was from a low base, 1996 saw a substantial improvement in the housing market, and we expect further growth, particularly in transaction volumes, into 1997 and beyond."

Higher levels of confidence which will offset a predicted reduction in special incentive cashbacks and discounts offered by mortgage lenders.

The strong growth in 1996 against the poor 1995 performance was boosted by the reversal of "heavy income tax increases" and should be further fuelled as the round of direct tax cuts in the latest budget fed through in 1997. Further evidence of consumer optimism is provided today by a survey from Barclays Mortgage which shows one in two homeowners now believes the value of their house is set to increase. There was also a rise in the number of people intending to move this year.

Northern readies the white flag

hour attempt to drum up City support for Northern's independence, offering to buy back at the offer price shares pledged to the US bidder.

NORTHERN Electric looks set to hoist the white flag in its long-running battle against a £782 million bid from CE Electric to buy back at the offer price shares pledged to the US bidder. After the offer closed on Saturday, several institutions let it be known that they were not prepared to accept the CE offer. Although they did not have enough shares to overturn the deal, they could have retained a dissident minority holding. A spokesman for Northern yesterday confirmed that a statement was pending. Although the company is expected to advise its shareholders to accept the offer, Northern declined to speculate on what would be said.

'Titanic' pensions policy presages national disaster

Richard Miles

ABOUT yesterday warned of an impending "pensions disaster". It published figures showing that millions face poverty in retirement because of a huge shortfall in funding. Urging the Government to come clean on the scale of the crisis, the shadow pensions minister, John Denham, accused the Conservatives of "betraying tomorrow's pensioners" and likened their pensions policy to the Titanic. "Millions of people are not covered by employers' pension schemes; others are only making tiny contributions to personal pensions, or are making no second pension provision at all," he said. Labour's analysis, based on information collected from a number of surveys, reveals under-funding on a grand scale in both company schemes and personal pensions, with employees of smaller firms and women worst affected. Of the million firms with fewer than 100 staff — the bulk of private employers — fewer than four out of 10 employees are covered by a pension scheme. Seventy per cent of companies with five or fewer employees offer no pension arrangement. Even employees lucky enough to belong to a company scheme may see their final years on the breadline. Most members of a small company scheme receive about half the employer's contribution they could expect from a big company. Holders of personal pensions — introduced in April 1988 for workers not covered by a company scheme — are no better off. Department of Social Security figures show that more than 80 per cent of the 5.5 million people with

Spider-Man publisher files for bankruptcy

Mark Tran in New York

SPIDER-Man yesterday got caught in a financial web as Marvel Entertainment Group, the comics publisher, filed for bankruptcy protection. The bankruptcy filing was seen as a manoeuvre by billionaire Ronald Perleman, who owns 80 per cent of Marvel Entertainment, to keep control of the troubled producer of comic books and trading cards. Marvel has been at the centre of a tug of war between Perleman and corporate raider Carl Icahn. Under a proposed financial restructuring plan, Mr Perleman's Andrews Group will invest \$365 million (\$224 million) in new equity in Marvel, allowing the publisher to make toy designer Toy Biz a wholly-owned subsidiary of Marvel. Marvel will also receive \$160 million from a group of lenders to finance its new strategic investment programme. Marvel was bought by Mr

Laporte to detach adhesives units

Tony May

LAPORTE, the speciality chemicals group, is to raise £110 million from the sale of most of its European adhesives and sealants operation to Elf Atochem. The company also expects to realise between £90 million and £110 million for its North American adhesives and sealants businesses. Jim Leng, the company's chief executive said: "These businesses are doing well so we're fairly confident about achieving a successful sale in the first half of 1997. "There is certainly no question of a fire sale of these operations. "While the sale to Elf will eliminate group debt, a successful sale of the US operations would leave the group with net cash and in a good position from which to expand. "The European sale will result in a goodwill write-off of some £50 million and an exceptional gain of about £28 million. Mr Leng said: "Our strat-

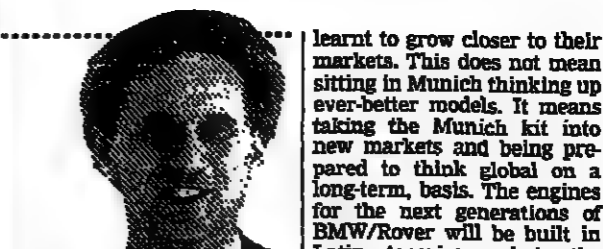
Costain quits from coal and property

Tony May

COSTAIN, the international mining, engineering and construction company yesterday overcame opposition from rebel shareholders to win approval for the sale of its US coal and London property interests. The board told an extraordinary general meeting that the sale of the assets "represents the last major step" in its plan to focus on engineering and construction. Mr Alisdair Stark, chairman of The Costain Independent Shareholders' Association, which claims to speak for 400 of the group's 15,000 small shareholders, criticised the group's "appalling financial record". He said: "The wise investor is he who has but a single share." Rescued from receivership this year by Intra, a Malaysian competitor, Costain said on December 10 that it wanted to sell its coal operations to Rencol Inc, a unit of the privately-held Renco Group, for about \$47 million, including \$13 million of debt. Costain, which won the contract to build the controversial Newbury bypass, also said it would sell for £22.5 million its one-third interest in the Spitalfields development site in London to Malaysia's Metacorp. Cash from the sale will be used to repay debt, fund £20 million in US obligations and meet future capital needs. Costain shares were suspended at 47p last month at the company's request. Trading in them will not resume until after the completion of the asset sales.

Smart money's thinking global

Alex Brummer



AS WE move towards the final years of this century, businesses and nations need to think global. It may seem that there is nothing new in this for Britain — after all, this country has been a global trading power since the 17th century. However, as the nation and British businesses have shed their colonial past, they have become increasingly narrowly focused, preferring to concentrate on the domestic market and comfortable relationships with North America and Europe, rather than take the adventurous, internationalist approach which made these islands an economic powerhouse and a world power. The good will from Africa to Latin America and the Pacific Rim, built up over centuries, is being allowed to wither. Our biggest corporations such as BT think they are going global when they make deals with a US telecoms group like MCI. But the really inventive way forward would have been a link with another UK-based firm, Cable & Wireless, which would have given BT access to the world's fastest-growing regions. Geo-economics has displaced the geopolitics of the Cold War era as the main driving force of international relations and commerce. The time when the three largest economic groupings — North America, Japan and Europe — could look to each other for their political, financial and trading relationships is passing. The creation of relationships with the emerging market economies will be as important to Western economies as it is to the developing countries themselves. Growth rates in the emerging market countries are expected to reach 6.2 per cent in 1997, against the mediocre 2.5 per cent growth for the West (according to the IMF). This disparity in growth rates and opportunity is sucking in capital, investment and expertise from the industrialised nations to the emerging markets. Amid this sea-change, commerce has to think in global terms.

THE customers for new planes, the airlines, like to talk of globalisation and have forged hundreds of bilateral alliances across the globe. But the reality is different. In many emerging market countries that think nothing of allowing Citibank and JF Morgan to control the larger part of their banking assets, and where the population is only too happy to be seen driving around in Nissans and VWs — symbols of financial and manufacturing globalisation — the governments are satisfied to operate flag-carriers with limited route structures and remit.

Some carriers, such as British Airways, have talked frequently about globalisation. But much of BA's expansion has been based on its strengths, many of them built up during the colonial era. It has sought to build domestic service inside Europe but with limited success. More recently its main focus has been on strengthening its links across the Atlantic through the American Airlines alliance, rather than becoming truly international by developing, for instance, its own hubs in emerging markets. It has, however, recognised that some airline services such as ticketing are now a global business, with the removal of national restrictions such as Lloyds Bank in Latin America in the dust as its European mainland counterparts have backed the new geo-economic order. Lloyds TSB has become so preoccupied with becoming a dominant consumer bank delivering mortgages and insurance products that it has neglected its global roots and strong traditions in Latin America. Barclays has become so obsessed with not making the mistake of British bank property and abroad that it is falling to use its enormous pull from South Africa to the Caribbean and Middle East to re-establish itself as a power for the next century. Only HSBC is behaving like a genuinely global bank, seeking to add holdings in countries such as Mexico to an already impressive network. Specialist car companies like BMW have recognised the same trend. They have

learned to grow closer to their markets. This does not mean sitting in Munich thinking up ever-better models. It means taking the Munich seat into new markets and being prepared to think global on a long-term, basis. The engines for the next generations of BMW/Rover will be built in Latin America and in the Midlands in Britain, not simply because costs are lower, but because the growing South American and European markets can best be served in this way over the next quarter-century.

The contrast between a commercial company, such as Rover, and BMW is remarkable. Rover focused all its attention on the limited UK market, losing its foothold in the former colonies and the Far East. Trading companies like Incheape, with a strong franchise in the Pacific Basin, found they had to substitute overseas marques for the British ones to survive.

The end-of-year merger between Boeing and McDonnell Douglas also recognises the importance of global markets. Aircraft may continue to be designed and quality-tested in Seattle and St Louis, but with the emergence of a more global economy, it is likely that much more of the plane will be constructed closer to the market. Eventually, even the most sensitive parts of the kit may be built in Japan, China or Korea — if that is where the big international orders are coming from.

Financial and commercial organisations with world ambitions, from ING Barings to Unilever and the Kuwaiti Investment Office, are planning they need to have a base in the City of London to conduct their foreign exchange, Euro-bond financing, takeover and other business. This is held up as a glowing example of London's claim of being the world's most important business centre. What a pity, then, that only a very limited number of British corporations, financial and industrial, have so far rediscovered the global gospel.

Table with 4 columns: Country, Bank, Rate, and other details. Includes Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, USA.

Bloomberg: know-all billionaire, page 10

The coming spend, spend, spend year, page 11

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
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Finance Guardian

Electricity charges

Table with columns for regions (Northern, Yorkshire, etc.) and rows for various electricity providers (Northern, Yorkshire, etc.) showing rates for different meter types.

CHRIS BARRIE looks at the social repercussions of a free energy market in America to project the outcome of the full privatisation of Britain's gas and electricity industries



Dark days... How long will it be before laissez-faire Britain's ghettos are as energy-poor as Philadelphia's? PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTOPHER PILLITZ

Switched off in mean street

HERE are streets in American cities where electricity and gas supplies are a thing of the past. At night apartment windows are mostly in darkness, although a few flicker and glow in the light of kerosene lamps. Food, if heated at all, is cooked on potentially hazardous portable stoves. And the occupants wear coats, even when they are in bed.

British homes. Last year, that number had jumped to more than 3.2 million, and this year it is expected to be close to four million. British Gas has also increased its prepayment meters, with more than 800,000 now in place. By definition these meters are installed in the homes of people who already have difficulty paying their bills. Yet these people are also expected to pay a higher standing charge for their gas and electricity than other, more affluent, customers.

meeting average expenditure. "If competition reduces average prices for households, [and] increases the prices paid by those in receipt of benefit, the families will be worse off." Research by Andrew Gosses-Lobo, of the Institute for Fiscal Studies, suggests gas customers who consume relatively little gas may also suffer unless competition dramatically drives down costs. These consumers will not benefit unless the costs of supplying customers fall by between 20 and 30 per cent - a tall order.

Similar unease is voiced by Jeremy Fennell, a policy officer at Age Concern. He wants to know whether special services for the elderly will survive the competitive market. Will companies allow consumers to pay in small amounts at post offices? Will they provide home advice on using gas? Will they move meters free of charge if easier access is needed?

The plight of the poor is a cause of serious concern among consumer groups, who fear the gap between the poor and affluent will widen in 1998 when the entire power sector is opened to competition

The Guardian Weekly subscription information, including rates for UK, Europe, and other regions, and contact details for subscriptions.

Two groups, it says, are most at risk - those households containing someone unable to work because of health difficulties and those families with a child aged under five in the household. Their struggle is cumulative. Low-income, single-parent families already find the economics of daily life difficult. Throw in the need to budget for a stockpile of prepayment tokens and weak ends in the cold and without hot food inevitably follow.

It is unclear why Prof Littlechild should be so persuaded by the industry's argument. Industry sources suggest that he has taken seriously the companies' threat to rip out the prepayment meters unless he falls into line. Consumer groups scoff at such a threat. Quite apart from the cost of removing some four million meters, the political fallout would be enormous, they say.

Quick Crossword No. 8319 with a crossword grid and a list of clues for Across and Down.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

# The Guardian the week



They go for the money and the fun. They forget, report **Sarah Boseley** and **Kathy Evans**, that it may become an invitation to a beheading

## Expatriate games

**S**AUDI Arabia's dry heat hits a blinding 120 degrees during the day and plummets to 40 below at night. The desert kingdom is a place of wild extremes — where alcohol, drugs and the mixing of the sexes are utterly forbidden in public and yet where parties rage privately throughout the night.

For the 30,000 British workers living there, including hundreds of young, single nurses, Saudi is alternately a place of grim oppression and high, illicit excitement. At times, it can all go very badly wrong. It has before, when Helen Smith was found dead in 1979 beside the body of a Dutchman after an all-night party. She was gruesomely impaled on iron railings under the balcony of a British surgeon's flat. Now it has gone wrong for Lucille

McLauchlan and Deborah Parry, the two British nurses charged with murdering their Australian colleague, Yvonne Gilford, who was found dead on Christmas Eve in her room at the King Fahd medical complex in Dhahran. The pair had shared a room with Yvonne, a senior theatre nurse. She had been stabbed four times, battered with a hammer and smothered.

Such disasters cause public and private worlds to collide in a clash of cultures. In 1979 Penny and Richard Arnot spent some months in jail for holding the illegal drinks party where Helen Smith was a guest; they narrowly escaped a flogging. McLauchlan and Parry face higher penalties: if convicted under Sharia law they could be beheaded. For the most part, the Saudi authorities avert their eyes from the expats' extracurricular activities. As long as

the Brits, Americans, Scandinavians and the rest toe the moral line on the streets, they can do what they like in the privacy of their own homes.

It suits both cultures to cordon off the potentially pernicious foreign influences in closed expats' compounds — fenced off with high walls and heavy security on the gates. On the Western side of the fence, the compound acts like a safety valve, where expatriates can let their hair down without falling foul of Saudi law and ending up in jail causing diplomatic embarrassment to both their governments and the Saudi authorities.

The compounds began in the forties, with the construction of the Aramco oil company headquarters in Dhahran. Here thousands of Americans were able to live virtually an Ameri- **page 14**

**NATIONAL SAVINGS**  
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Ms. Penn  
Mrs. Holden

**CAROLINE HOLDEN**  
National Savings

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**NATIONAL SAVINGS**  
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GE1GD6

the week that was

Them on them

The global view

Americans are flocking back to a century-old regimen that has failed them repeatedly in the past: the high-protein, high-fat, low-carbohydrate diet.

Bull Shark. Possessing two penises, measuring up to 30 centimetres each, it is not called the Bull Shark for nothing.

The coming year in Las Vegas will begin as every New Year has for nearly a decade — with the opening of yet another gigantic gambling den.

One of the exhibition highlights is the Besenbers' Gallery — animal penis specimens ranging from the humble domestic cat to the well-endowed

Us on us

The British view

The IRA has a clear choice. It can plunge the abyss by a return to terrorism or it can see sense and call a ceasefire.

In 18 years would devote much energy to abolishing hunting in its early years. The battle over hunting is far from over.

If you live in North-east Wales you will be familiar with the surname of Zychlin. Zychlin is the last name in the phone book and because of this has generated a lot of interest in the country over the years.

The pessimism among hunt followers at their Boxing Day meets that this may be the last is not only premature, it may also be entirely misplaced.



THEME OF THE YEAR DECAY

THEME OF THE YEAR DECAY. The year has been dominated by a sense of decline and loss, from the economic downturn to the political and social challenges.

Underpinning this sense of decay is a feeling of loss, not only of the economic and political, but also of the social and cultural. The year has been marked by a sense of decline and loss, from the economic downturn to the political and social challenges.

WERE YOU PAYING ATTENTION IN '96? A large question mark icon.

- 1. So sorry to hear about your baby. Whose potentially libellous condolences (and to whom)? (a) Princess Diana (b) Sarah Ferguson (c) Bob Geldof (d) Liam Gallagher



- 5. What is this? (a) The Stone of Destiny (b) A Marian mystery (c) The Rock of Gibraltar (d) A Rolling Stone

Signs of life from the cult that kills

This week last year December 23, 1995

THE DISCOVERY of 16 burnt corpses, lying in a circle in a French Alpine clearing, raised fears that followers of the Order of the Solar Temple doomsday sect had staged a new suicide pact.



Cars of dead cult members and, right, Ute Varona, who with her partner Patrick Vuagnat was amongst the corpses.

The apocalypse they believe in is not the end of the world but a passage from this world to another. The massacres in Canada and Switzerland in 1984 were probably the result of a final within the Order of the Solar Temple.

At 1am on December 18, the 16 people had apparently willingly left their cars in a ski resort car park near the village of Saint-Pierre-de-Chérennes, south of Grenoble. The victims, including a doctor and the wife and son of a former French skiing champion, had walked about a mile through thick pine woods and settled down around a camp fire.

apparition by Jo Di Mambro, one of the late founders of the sect. Instead they were drugged and shot by two of their number, both serving French police officers.

Di Mambro, known by Interpol under five aliases and linked to money-laundering networks in France, Switzerland, Canada and Australia, had died with 24 others on October 4, 1984, at Salvan in Switzerland.

people had died at Chéry in Switzerland and five had died at Morin Heights, north of Montreal. All had been sedated before being knifed or shot. The houses they were found in had been set alight.

Mr Bédat said: "The tragedy last December is the most frightening yet because it happened without Jouret and Di Mambro. Did the Solar Temple leaders leave behind a second command structure? There are rumours that the sect still has thousands of followers, principally in Quebec."

Expatriate games

4 page 19 can life-style, unconstrained by strict Saudi laws. Fifteen years ago, women were even allowed to drive within the compound — unheard of outside.

man," said Anne Froelich, whose husband got a job at a Saudi university. "We had an Egyptian friend who took me to a woman's souk (market). I was covered except that I didn't have anything on my head. The religious police who are all over came up to this man, assuming I was his wife."

JUST once she ventured out without a man, taking her small daughter to buy bread. "I was moved to the front of the line and got rid of it as soon as possible. I never did it again," she said.

nurse working in the King Fahd complex in Dhahran said the pay was good and the staff accommodation "like a five-star hotel". Each nurse has her own room equipped with her own phone, TV, and furniture provided free.

temptation to break all the ordinary social rules, let alone the stringent Saudi variety. "It is an unreal world," said one female expat. "You know you don't belong there. You can behave badly because you can leave it all behind you."

- 1. Princess Diana to her children's nanny, Tiggy Legge-Bourke, insisting that she had an abortion.

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opened on that occasion remains uncertain 17 years later. A jury in Britain came to an open verdict over Helen Smith's death. Her body is still frozen in the mortuary of Leeds Infirmary because her implacable father Ron Smith refuses to give up his pursuit of the truth. He continues to be convinced that his daughter was murdered, and contends that one day a further examination of the body may be needed.



Sadness in Saudi... Lucille McLauchlan accused of murder; Helen Smith (right) found dead in 1979

عائلة من الامم

Some claim this man and his chubby schoolfriend have revolutionised capitalism. Oh really?

# Tubs who is cream of the crop

## THE JOANNA COLES INTERVIEW



IT IS OBVIOUS from the start that someone is missing. Ben is missing, Ben Cohen, the big bearded partner of Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream. Instead it is Jerry Greenfield the shy partner, sitting across the table in his purple T-shirt embossed in black plastic with Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream and Jerry seems to be missing Ben, a lot. In fact, once or twice he even addresses Ben, whom he has known since school, as if he were in the room instead of back at the factory in Vermont.

For those who have not yet tasted it, Ben and Jerry's is to Häagen-Dazs what the Body Shop is to Lush. It's the ice cream with a social conscience, made from decent ingredients by two old schoolfriends who struggle to employ decent work practices and believe business has a social and environmental responsibility.

Sounds familiar? Yes, but even Anita Roddick hasn't gone quite as far as these guys, who organise "joy gangs" to cheer up the workers by patrolling the shopfloor dressed as Elvis or pipe Barry Manilow through the office sound system. It's company policy that 7.5 per cent of the profit goes to charities, as does a certain percentage of each worker's time. Potential employees are screened for a social conscience at job interviews to check their suitability. (One man was rejected after objecting to B&J's policy of paying medical insurance for homosexual partners.)

As a business it has been a sensational success but like Roddick, Ben and Jerry have stuck their heads above the parapet and been shot at. Critics have seized upon their apparent self-righteousness, arguing that their widely-publicised conscience is simply a marketing tool. Their efforts to secure the Amazon rain forest for the next century have been pored over and found wanting.

"Look," says Jerry. "When we started, neither one of us was looking to make a lot of money, or looking to become a businessman, or looking for a career." Which just goes to show how wrong a boy can be, because 18 years on, Ben and Jerry are selling \$156 million worth of ice cream a year, employing 700 staff and exporting thousands of artery-stopping tubs of Butter Pecan, Chunky Monkey,

and Cherry Garcia to deep freezes across the world.

Ben and Jerry have known each other for years. "Ben tells the story of when we were in gym class, standing at attention, and he heard this loud thud, and it was me falling over," says Jerry, fondly. "I had fainted from being on a diet. I was a tubby kid."

Ben was also on the chubby side and the two became friends, chatting together as they brought up the rear of cross-country runs. Still friendly in their early twenties they took an ice cream-making correspondence course, borrowed \$6,000 and in 1976 set up a small ice cream shop on their own.

To their hippie horror, it worked rather well. "We looked at ourselves and realised that we were suddenly no longer ice cream men but we'd become businessmen. We were, you know, writing memos and correspondence," says Jerry, looking horrified by the memory. "It was a shocking revelation — we had a very negative reaction to it — because we felt like businessmen were, you know, bad people; that companies exploited their workers and exploited the community. So our first thought was to put the business up for sale."

For sale? "Mmm, and then Ben ran into this eccentric old restaurateur in Southern Vermont, and this old guy said: 'Ben, why are you going to do that?' And Ben said: 'Maurice, you know what businesses do? They take advantage of the community and their workers.' And Maurice said: 'Ben, if there's something you don't like about your business, why don't you just change it?' And Ben said it had never really occurred to him.

So B and J sat down and worked out a philosophy that supported the local community. Ingredients would be purchased from local farms or firms that retained the unemployed or ex-convicts; staff would be given time off to work for charities and a percentage of the profits would be directed into local projects. Result: they would feel good and their customers would feel even better shelling out \$5 for a tub of Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough.

Jerry still seems rather surprised at their success. Is he? "It's shocking," he says slowly. "And I think people who knew Ben and me are shocked as well. I mean, we are not the kind of people you would expect that from. I note from the company report that Ben is down as chairperson, and Jerry, as vice-chair. Have they managed to stay friends? "We are better friends now than we've ever been."

What does he like about the absent Ben, whose presence nevertheless fills the room. "Oh, he's classic entrepreneur. He's very innovative, very risk-taking, he doesn't have a fear of failure, he loves to try new things. I really like that, because that's very dif-



Jerry on the B&J phenomenon... "We looked at ourselves and realised that we were suddenly no longer ice cream men but we'd become businessmen" EAMONN McCABE

**Do they really have 'joy gangs' randomly imploring the staff to be happy? 'It's not as organised as you're implying'**

ferent from me. "I'm, I'm like, very conflict-avoiding. I like a manageable agenda. Yeah, I have fear of failure, and I'm not a risk-taker."  
Jerry seems so laid-back I expect him to slip under the table at any minute. He seems utterly affable and yet, and yet I can't help feeling mildly suspicious. Especially when he suddenly slips in that Ben, the chief flavour designer, has a poor sense of taste. What? We are talking about Fudge Behaving Badly, a new flavour from which Comic Relief will earn \$0p a pot, and I ask Jerry to describe the taste. "The taste?"  
"Yes, how would you describe the taste to me?"  
"Boy I don't know how I would describe it! You know, the interesting thing about a lot of our flavours is there's a lot of texture and flavour contrast. And some of the reason for that is that Ben does a lot of deglazing of the flavours, and he really can't taste that wall!"  
That seems rather odd, I murmur. "You know, he's... he can't really smell, and when you can't smell, you can't really taste. That's why so many of our ice creams are very strongly flavoured, so that Ben can taste them!" I am just about to interrupt when Jerry continues: "It's also why they have a lot of big chunks of cookies and candies and nuts, or things like that, 'cos Ben really likes the contrast of different textures. He's never had much of a sense of taste."

Then he says something else, equally curious. I ask him what flavour he likes and he replies: "Oh, you know, it's funny, the flavours I like most that the company has made — well, actually a lot of them have been discontinued."  
At this point Eugene, the PR man enters brandishing a tub of Fudge Behaving Badly, which he has obligingly sliced in half with the office paper-cutter, so that I can see how the fudge and caramel swirl together. "Now that looks pretty swirly," says Eugene.  
"I have this smurral swort," remarks Jerry, eyeing the paper cutter. "Ben and I met a guy once who is a martial arts teacher and he decided to show us some sword training, and we would slice these points in half. It was really hilarious! Really Jerry? I have one of these Japanese warrior outfits at home!"  
And I suddenly picture him in his outfit, swinging through the factory, slicing wildly at tubs of grotesquely rich and chunky ice cream. Do they really have "joy gangs" randomly imploring the staff to be happy? "It's not as organised as you're implying," says Jerry solemnly. "It's an ad hoc volunteer committee, who try to figure out ways to bring more joy to the workplace."

This "fun" side of Ben and Jerry's is also extended to the company report, last year designed as a child's colouring book complete with a packet of crayons to colour in the blank drawings. Page eight is entitled "Ben and Jerry's Philanthropy", while on page 20, we find "Highlights of Ben and Jerry's Social Report", detailing their six Partner-Shops, owned by non-profit-making organisations and reassurance for shareholders that "among senior managers, gender balance is even."  
It's not hard to be cynical about B&J as Jerry is fully aware. "It's natural when a company is trying to do good things that people will be sceptical, they've been trained by business to think that business is just about self-interest."  
And occasionally things do go wrong. Attempts to help the Amazonians by harvesting Brazil nuts came a cropper, as did a Partner-shop in Harlem, supposedly run by homeless men.  
But Greenfield says the press have always idealised what they were trying to do, and have blown the mistakes out of all proportion. "Things do go wrong when you're innovative. But the idea that we're not cracked up to be what we say we are, is no more true than the idealisation was in the beginning!"  
Behind all this is his and Ben's fear that business is taking over our culture. "It's the most powerful force in society," he says angrily. "It used to be religion, then it was government, and now it's

business. You can see it reflected in architecture, the oldest, most ornate buildings in major cities around the world are religious, the next biggest are governmental, and now the biggest, most ornate buildings are commercial. That's new, it's within our lifetime that business has become the most powerful force."  
"Now religion and government had as their purpose the welfare of general society. I mean, that's why they existed. But business has become this most powerful force, and yet it's only out for itself, which is why I think we suddenly have a feeling of everyone-for-themselves again."  
He is now talking so fervently, I wonder if the White House may be next on his personal agenda. And why not?  
"Business strongly influences elections with campaign contributions," he rages. "It controls legislation and lobbyists, and it controls the media through ownership. You have car companies lobbying against fuel efficiency standards, against safety standards; you have businesses lobbying against environmental regulations, against health insurance, against the minimum wage. I mean, this is stuff that's good for the average person, and yet business is lobbying against it! And people are buying products from all these companies! It's crazy! I don't get it! Do you get it?"

## ANTHONY JULIUS



**Peace on Earth? Let's agree to differ**

CHRISTMAS is a good time for thinking non-Christian thoughts. When Christians celebrate the story of Jesus's birth, they prompt non-Christians to celebrate their own stories. Christmas throws in relief the practices and beliefs of other religions. As a Jew, my own favourite story is from the Talmud, a huge, multi-volume work which sets out the laws regulating Jewish life and also contains rabbinic commentaries on those laws.  
This is the story. One day the great Rabbi Eliezer was conferring with a number of fellow rabbis about a particular passage in the Bible. He was maintaining a stance which the others rejected. They were right to do so, because his interpretation was demonstrably wrong. But he wouldn't give way. Seeking to shore up his position with proofs of his authority, he commanded a nearby tree to uproot itself, which it did. He then directed a stream to flow backwards; it too complied with his

order. He turned triumphantly to the rabbis: as you see, I am right! But the majority of rabbis were unimpressed. Miracles don't support an argument, only arguments support an argument. Stung by this, and rather missing the point, Rabbi Eliezer then commanded the walls of the schoolhouse in which they were debating to collapse. In deference to his authority, we're told, they began to fall, in deference to the authority of the other rabbis, however, they did not altogether disintegrate. (And the Talmud adds, rather quaintly, "thus do the walls tilt to this day"). The rabbis remained unmoved.  
What did any of this have to do with a question of Biblical interpretation?  
Driven to even more extravagant measures, Rabbi Eliezer then appealed direct to the Almighty, with success. A Heavenly Voice spoke, rebuking the majority rabbis: "Why do you dispute with Rabbi Eliezer, when in all matters of religious law his is the correct

interpretation?" God sided with Eliezer. The author of the Bible placed His own unique authority on the side of the dissenting rabbi. And this is where the story becomes interesting, because the rabbis were entirely unfazed by this intervention. They responded to Him: You have no right to interfere in our debate. The Bible is for us to interpret, not You. It is not in heaven, it is on earth. And You Yourself have taught that one must follow the majority. Far from being angry at this retort, God is delighted. He laughs, saying: "my sons have learnt well, they have defeated me!"  
This is a story which has many applications. It supports, for example, that tendency in literary theory which denies the authority of the author in determining the meaning of the text. (Indeed, modern critics are now alert to the contribution that rabbinical techniques of interpretation can bring to the study of literature). The story is also relevant to the con-

tinuing debate among lawyers on the extent to which, in the interpretation of statutes, it's appropriate to go back to parliamentary debates to find out what was intended by the legislators. But that

divine authority, and celebrates rational inquiry, where truth is reached by debate unaided by miracles or flashy and oppressive demonstrations of power.  
While it is true that the majority rabbis resist God by quoting back at Him his own words, thus affirming His authority at the very moment of disregarding His support for Eliezer, and paradoxically thereby justifying their defiance as submission, this refusal to acknowledge God's authority on something as central as the Bible is a scandal. But it's a scandal which goes straight to the heart of Jewish religious practice. For me, at any rate, it defines Judaism.  
In doing so, it opens a space between Judaism and Christianity. What Christmas demonstrates, I suspect, is that Christians are encouraged to unite over symbols. They find their faith in the meanings they attach to symbols, principally, of course, the Cross, but other symbols too (I suggest this with great tentativeness). By

contrast, there is no such tendency in Judaism, where reverence of any images is deprecated, and where instead Jews are encouraged to unite over texts. The most characteristic moment of Jewish observance is thus not solitary prayer but collective study, one Jew debating a Talmudic text with another, the text itself in turn the record of earlier debates.  
Of course, there are congruences. Friedrich Schleiermacher, who established modern Christian hermeneutics, explained that the interpreter's aim is "to understand the text at first as well as and then even better than its author" (my italics). Thus does a 19th century Protestant theologian meet 1st-2nd century rabbis. But still, it's the differences that are the more striking.  
There is a tendency among liberals to seek to solve conflict by searching for the common ground. At this time of year it is perhaps safe to celebrate what divides us. *Jeremy Hardy is on holiday*

**The rabbis responded to Him: You have no right to interfere in our debate. The Bible is for us to interpret, not You**

is the least of its appeal. For anyone unfamiliar with Jewish tradition, and in particular for anyone who subscribes to the political fiction of the "Judeo-Christian tradition", it's a shocking story. It makes defiance of God a virtue. The story endorses resistance to



Hail, sleet, mulled wine and razor blades with vitamin E

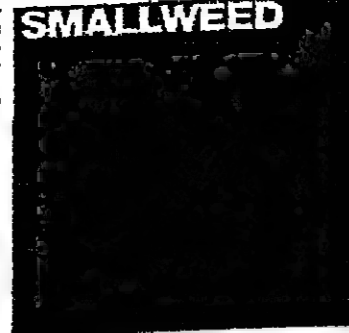
WE SPENT a family Christmas in Northumberland, just past the cold side of Hadrian's Wall. It's quite the bleakest part of England...

isted of finding something to do with all the territory its army kept on winning. Hadrian himself was a consolidator rather than a conqueror...

I KNOW healthy eating is important, but things are getting ridiculous. In Hexham I bought a packet of disposable razor blades...

is how very few of the innumerable plays she watched have survived either. All these people in evening dress cramming the theatres to watch George and Margaret...

agers, the camp romantic leads, the lecherous landladies, the haughty grand-dames, the drunken old tragedians...

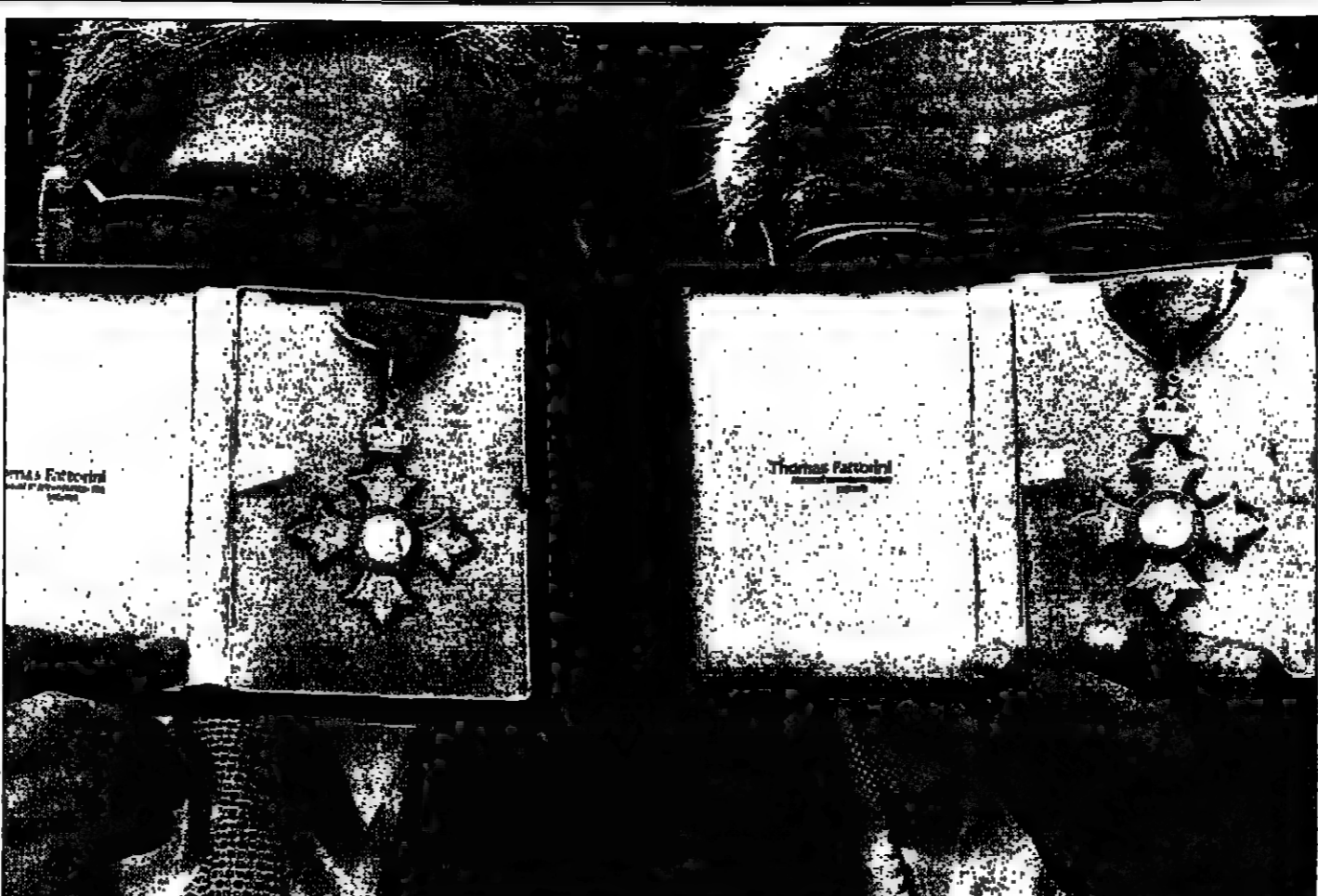


PREPOSTEROUS exercise has reached a suitably preposterous conclusion. Vibrant, tangy, charismatic John Major is enthroned as the BBC's personality (or as they say in Guy's and Dolls, personality) of the Year...

Who wins in gong show?

HEAD TO HEAD

Will you get an award in the New Year Honours List? No thanks, I was offered a CBE and turned it down says Gordon McGregor.



Top of the classless... Denis Norden and Frank Muir who did accept the honour of OBEs, awarded at the end of 1994.

Dear Harold, LONG with the relatively democratic excitement of the festive season, your office must now be pervaded by tense expectation, shared in a thousand other enclaves where forewarned potential recipients await the public proclamation of the New Year Honours List.

care what "class" they are thought to belong to. Burke's Peerage really doesn't help. Let me not at Christmas invoke the spectre of redundancy in your office, but is it not time that the whole pernicious farago was swept away?

declining the chance to join the crew and make this country a better place to live? Yours faithfully, Harold Brooks-Baker, Publishing Director, Burke's Peerage

whether dictator, president or monarch. Someone has to rule because that's the way humans work. You are an exemplary person for not needing a medal to encourage you to play a constructive part...

and it's left to make a Gielgud wait till the age of 90 to be rewarded? That one united award for distinguished effort for the community, recipients chosen by an all-party group of our elected representatives and awards made by the Speaker of the House of Commons...

Bargain New Year Breaks in London. GREAT HOTELS FROM ONLY £28 PER PERSON PER NIGHT. INCLUDING FULL ENGLISH BREAKFAST. Royal Scot, Charing Cross, Kensington Palace, The Grosvenor, Mount Oxford, Royal Horseguards.

Dear Professor, I AGREE with you that the idea of Major's "classless society" is bunk. You cannot legislate against human nature and class is as much a part of human nature as sex. Try legislating to abolish sex. I also agree that the Prime Minister's office should not be responsible for dispensing honours.

Dear Professor, WHY IS IT that no one has been able to obtain a classless society? That would be wonderful, perhaps, but nobody's come up with a recipe for it yet.

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Doonesbury BY GARRY TRUDEAU. YOU KNOW, MIKE, SINCE SHE'S DOING SO WELL, MAYBE YOU SHOULD LET J.J. HELP WITH CHILD SUPPORT. NO ANY! SHE'S ONLY TRYING TO REASSURE CONTROL!

سنة من الامل



Charles Nevin's very personal guide to the worst of the past year

# 96 things to leave behind in '96



ILLUSTRATIONS BY DAVID SMITH

So. Here we are, halfway through that important period of pause, reflection and dyspepsia between Christmas and the New Year; a time for taking stock, for looking backward, for looking forward, for resolving that 1997 will be different from 1996: better, kinder, more at ease with itself. Perhaps, in my small way, I can help. For here, with ado, is my list of 96 people, phrases and phenomena featuring in 1996 that 1997 really would be very much better off without.

Clarkson, The Government, Sooty, The Duke of Edinburgh, The Queen Mother, the Prince of Wales, Diana, Princess of Wales, Sarah, Duchess of York, Ruby Wax (but not Madame Vasso, of whom I'd like to see much more, as Dame Vasso), all the rest of them, Trevor McDonald, Papa Smurf, Neil Wotsonname, MP — blond, grey suits, likes a quid; people who wear baseball caps back to front, call you "Young Man" and talk in lifts. Hey, some of those were jokes! (The use of Hey there, by the way, was ironic. It's banned, as is Purleese.) And I should also mention that, for me, the Spice Women can do no wrong. And Sir Cliff's Heathcliff is a cracker whatever smart and sneering metropolitans might say. But enough blathering; let's get on with it.

**1** The following couples: Patsy and Liam, Patsy and Kate, Liam and Noel, Mick and Jerry, Jerry and Maria, Mick and This Month's Somebody Else, Madonna and Evita, Paula and Bob, Paula and Michael, Bruce and Demi, Pammy and Tommy Lee, Kevin and Pandora, Kevin and Ian, Kevin and the BBC, Jeremy Irons and Jeremy Irons.

**2** Sea Bass.  
**3** The V Chip, particularly in deadly combination with V Bottomley.  
**4** Crime and accident reconstruction programmes. Apparently the BBC is planning a compilation of the ones that, sadly didn't pull through on Animal Hospital, to be called Stone Dead: Roif's Bloomers.



**5** That man Sir Ranulph Twisleton Wykeham Fiennes going off on any more of his expeditions. Please. And, ditto, pretty please, Richard Branson. And Ralph Fiennes, while we're at it.

**6** All these rich and famous people who keep complaining that, in Britain, we don't like success, we resent it, want people to fail, whereas in America, there they really, etc. Go live there!

**7** Crash. Bored, already.

**8** Martin Amis and his teeth. And his money.

**9** That tired old canard about Peter Mandelson. For those who haven't heard it, Peter, in his first election campaign, in Hartlepool, went into a chip shop, pointed to the mushy peas and asked for some of the nice avocado dip. (Some versions use guacamole, but I prefer avocado, don't you?)

**10** The X Files. Independence Day. So they're here. So what? We've had John Major since 1990.

**11** Richard Dawkins. Chuck it, Dicky, and leave us our dreams.

**12** British fashion designers ruling the world. Just get on with the frocks.

**13** And London, Centre of the Earth. Try South Norwood on a Monday.

**14** The response "He speaks highly of you, too".

**15** These impenetrable adverts with empty swimming pools, sub Mad Max landscapes, and strange people, some of them grunting. What was wrong with men in white coats, a blackboard and a packet of soap powder?

**16** The misuse of disinterested to mean uninterested.

**17** Nitpickers who write in to newspapers to angrily protest about their particular grammatical bugbear, like the unrelated "hopefully", which is a very useful construction, you know.

**18** Too much Scottishness. God it's grim, but you've got to laugh or you die. Which I'll do if I see that shot of Mel Gibson shouting in blue one more time.

**19** The convention whereby people about to be interviewed on television walk along the street or sit writing at a desk slightly smirking because they're pretending they don't know they're being filmed.

**20** Britpop. Why should derivative native turns be somehow better or more desirable than any other? Ridiculously chauvinist.

**21** All these foreign footballers. What's wrong with our boys? They've got everybody wearing vests now, too. Norman Hunter didn't wear a vest.

**22** Newspaper headlines which are a variation on "What's The Story, Morning Glory" and "Don't Look Back in Anger". And while we're at it, that busker at Bank underground station who does Oasis and Ralph McTell.

**23** Another location diary from another movie star.

**24** Another story about Sooty, Thomas the Tank Engine and Enid Blyton being sold abroad for vast amounts of money. Are glove puppets the new rock and roll?

**25** Fly-on-the-wall documentaries. How about a fly-on-the-wall documentary about a fly-on-the-wall documentary?

**26** Posh birds in the writing game discovering soccer.

**27** Another man writing about a book about how his hobby is better than sex.

**28** Three Lions.

**29** Women writers overusing "shag".

**30** The expression "losing the plot".

**31** Restaurants whose decor is all wood and white, a cross between a gymnasium and a convent.

**32** Men writing about their mothers.

**33** Or fathers.

**34** Or daughters.

**35** What ever happened to yarns?

**36** Prizes. Too many of them.

**37** BBC Sports Personality of The Year. Evander Holyfield fall asleep, and, frankly, Des, I don't blame him.

**38** The reverse construction which employs "That" at the beginning, as in "That Blank is now the finest blank in blank can no longer be denied".

**39** Martin Jarvis overegging and overhammering Michael Frayn on the radio.

**40** Politicians reading their memoirs on the

radio in a stultifyingly dull tone of assumed self-deprecation. See Hattaraley, Roy, and Norris, Steve. And tell me, please, that we've finished Roy's book now.

**41** That red lettuce they keep giving you when you're out.

**42** Alcopops.

**43** There's still three years to go. And already Pre Millennium Tension has been overworked to death.

**44** And I don't know about you, but I don't care if I never hear another word about that Millennium Exhibition at Greenwich.

**45** Or how it should really be 2001.

**46** Or how the Ferris Wheel on the Thames is derivative, and out of scale. That's the idea.

**47** People who knock Jeremy Irons when he works bloody hard, bloody hard, and actually has a very good sense of humour.

**48** And Trevor Nunn.

**49** The expression "An accident waiting to happen".

**50** The Aids ribbon as fashion accessory. And all the other ribbons.

**51** And charity records. Just send the money

**52** By the way, why do these pistol shooters shoot at targets shaped like people?

**53** Conversations about house prices at dinner parties.

**54** Conversations about Europe at dinner parties.

**55** Dinner parties.

**56** Cucumbers.

**57** The expression "If it ain't broke, don't fix it".

**58** Politicians on the Today programme who say "Jim".

**59** Listen, I like the It Girl. They're a vast improvement on the Weather Girls, and Tara Palmer-Tomkinson is what we in the media game call "a breath of fresh air".

**60** People who say they're bored with Europe. It's the most important question of the second half of the century, along with the education of this and future generations (and house prices are going up).

**61** The expression "to die for".

**62** That Downing Street cat. It's on the Christmas cards this year, too.

**63** Television chefs, particularly those two fat ladies.

**64** Mothers in those enormous jeep things in narrow streets on the school run.

**65** Those enormous jeep things.

**66** People who think they are better mimics than they are and expect you to laugh like a drain whenever they say "Why aye, man" or "G'day, mate".

**67** Everybody complaining about stress all the time. Don't people pull themselves together any more?

**68** Tony Blair's hair.

**69** Jokes which are a variation on New Labour. New something or other.

**70** The joke that New Labour will start doing Old Labour things once they are in power. In your dreams.

**71** The expression "In your dreams".

**72** People who rave about the invincible superiority of American television comedies. Doesn't anybody remember The Partridge Family?

**73** Book reviewers who write about "resonance" and find things "self-reflexive".

**74** Art reviewers who find things "limpid".

**75** Another interview telling us that Jodie Foster is very clever.

**76** Adaptations of Prince's new name, as in The X formerly known as X.

**77** Another child of the famous revealing that sometimes their famous parent could be quite nasty, or rude.

**78** Another child of the famous complaining that being the child of the famous was a hindrance rather than a help.

**79** Newspaper columnists who call their spouses "The Management" or some such.

**80** Newspaper columnists who tell you about their children, or their life in New York.

**81** Peter Andre taking his clothes off, again.

**82** Take That? Never heard of them.

**83** People who complain about Youth ending sentences on an interrogative intonation. "Innit?" is an invaluable invention, our much-needed equivalent of "n'est-ce pas?"

**84** People in tweeds and corduroys who talk very loudly to their children in supermarkets and restaurants, having parked the big jeep thing outside.

**85** Playing through the pain barrier.

**86** Being surprised by the England cricket team.

**87** The expression "take" for "view".

**88** The expression "is that x, or what?" and "is that x, or is that x?"

**89** Call waiting.

**90** "Rare" interviews (usually with Madonna).

**91** People "coming to terms" with things.

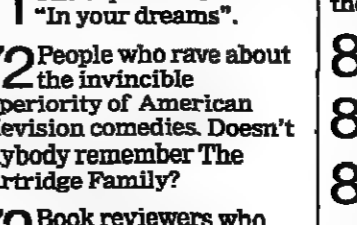
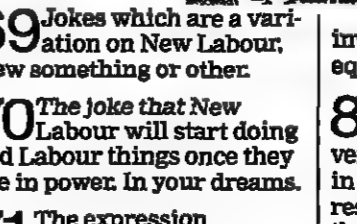
**92** Middle England.

**93** More pathetic attempts to stick some minor misdemeanour on Bill Clinton.

**94** An easy ride for Slick Willy.

**95** Shameless rip-offs of long-running Private Eye jeux d'esprit.

**96** Er, that's it.



arts



Spontaneous combustion

Art forms of the century

Richard Williams reveals how jazz has lost its most important asset — the ability to improvise

SHOOTING STARS

RIISING: GEORGE ELIOT

Up... Andrew Davies's Middlemarch sweeps all before it in 1994, and there are signs that a new star has been born — Mary Ann Evans, whose panoramic novels of 19th century life are less morbid than Hardy's and could trounce Trollope for serialisability.

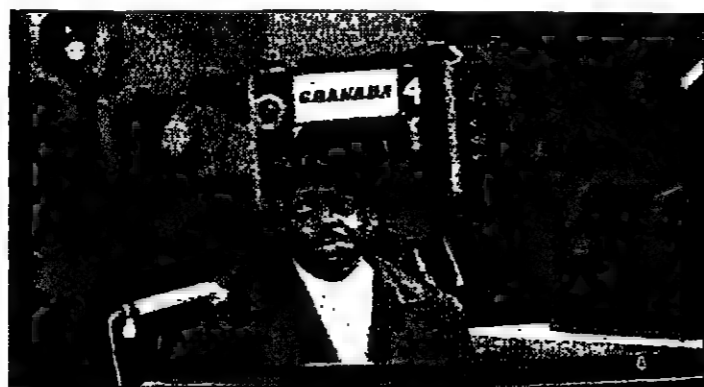
Away... Now Daniel Deronda — there's a challenge. And that enterprising Mr Davies has already snapped it up.

FALLING: JANE AUSTEN

Going... It has become a fact too universally acknowledged that any TV producer in need of ratings must find themselves a good Austen novel to adapt. The mistress of the barbed aside is de facto protectress of the stately homes of England (now retitled locations).

Going... Pride And Prejudice has been bagged, so have Sense And Sensibility and Persuasion and Emma. Some carping voices begin to complain that sprigged muelin is no longer the height of fashion.

Gene... The cupboard is looking sadly depleted. Anyone for Sanditon?



JAZZ IS, of course, dead. Its demise was announced as long ago as the mid-1920s, when Louis Armstrong stepped out of the ranks of King Oliver's Creole Jam Band to create the role of the star soloist, killing off the original form of New Orleans collective polyphony.

We all think we know what it sounds like, and what it represents in sociocultural terms. Whether it survives as a living, evolving art is another matter. Here's a strange thing. According to the results of the 1986 readers' poll conducted by the American jazz magazine Down Beat, published this month, the world's best large jazz ensemble is the Count Basie Orchestra.

and headleader of a later generation who succumbed to Lou Gehrig's Disease — amyotrophic lateral sclerosis — at the age of 57. The current Basie and Mingus orchestras are what used to be called "ghost bands": touring recreations of the original ensembles, endorsed by the estates of the dead men.



land Jazz Band in 1917 to the "free jazz" experiments of the mid-Sixties — jazz roared ahead on a voyage of discovery. Each decade produced a new set of dominant individuals who reset the parameters, and something like the New Orleans Revival of the 1940s was dismissed as an irrelevance. Yet now we are told that the most creative bands are led by dead men.

music, the minutest scrap of character blossomed into a personal style. In no other art form would a Hank Mobley or an Edmo Hope be able to express his individuality so clearly, and be so warmly revered long after his death.

special affection for these pieces, it was not the real thing. But sometimes the problem is more subtly framed. John Scofield's widely praised new album, Quiet, features orchestral settings for his acoustic guitar solos and pays explicit tribute to the Evans/Davis collaborations, without moving the music any further ahead. Lovely, but what's the point? So many projects seem to begin and end with a concept.

Advertisement for SAGA holidays. Includes text: 'From Torquay to Toronto...', 'Wherever your holiday takes you, Saga takes care of all the details...', and a form for booking with fields for Name, Address, Town, County, Postcode, Date of Birth, and Date of Birth (Mrs/Ms).

Wynton Marsalis seems to think and he is probably the best known and most influential individual in contemporary jazz. Fifteen years ago, Marsalis was a hotshot trumpeter with Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers, barely out of his teens.

If Wynton Marsalis is its creative figurehead, then jazz probably really is dead this time. Marsalis is an eloquent spokesman with firm views on what the music is. And that means an Afro-American music which began in New Orleans at the beginning of the century and ended in New York at about the time Miles Davis started listening to rock records.

Jazz had its beginnings in the synthesis of musics from the many cultures that happened to coincide in America at the end of the 19th century: slave songs, Protestant hymns, French dances, West African drum and string music, German opera, Irish jigs, military bands, Scottish ballads. But as the first half of the 20th century proceeded, and as the music was funnelled through the emerging mass media of radio and the gramophone, a process of standardisation took place.

Post-modernism entered jazz in the early Sixties. Symbolically, we can identify its birth in the gap between the recordings, a couple of years apart, of two standard ballads by two great tenor saxophonists who were both prominent figures in the avant-garde.

Even in the best new jazz, the references seem to come first. Sometimes as with Anthony Braxton's examination of the neglected compositions of Leonie Tristano, or the resumption after a 30-year break of the trio explorations of Jimmy Giuffrè, Paul Bley and Steve Swallow, the business at hand is the reinvestigation of territory which jazz bypassed in its headlong quest for new worlds to conquer.

This is the problem highlighted by the London Sinfonietta's recent historic recreation of the arrangements created for Miles Davis in the late Fifties and early Sixties, written and recorded and then put aside by men with their eyes fixed on the future.

How good this music may be, it is the result of calculation rather than impulse, full of "re" words: reunion, recombination, reassessment, revision. The music is about the music, about the way it shapes itself through a series of choices: it is a sign of something, not the sign itself.

"Free music", which is what we call the music that came out of that avant-garde, defiantly retains its fingerhold on existence, the preoccupation of a committed minority. "We play music that encourages intense listening and discourages any other kind," declares Evan Parker, the British saxophonist whose 30-year dedication to free improvisation has brought him international recognition.

The miracle of century is not power failures or airplane crashes or trips to the moon, but primitive man and Negro folklore, wrote Henri Bernard, in 1949. And no doubt jazz critic, in 1949. And no doubt Parker's West End Blues, Armstrong's West End Blues, Parker's Embraceable You and Coltrane's Alabama are authentic individual miracles of twentieth century art. But beyond the fact of their existence lies an even greater miracle.

We all went to the ball

Nights of long knives

مكتبة من الامم

THE ARTS YEAR: BLOOD AT THE BEEB, GUTS ON THE STAGE AND SEVERAL MURDERS AT THE OPERA

Theatre is alive - official

CHANNEL SURFING STUART JEFFRIES

We all went to the ball

TELEVISION will never again be like this. Or at least it shouldn't be. The streets were empty, as a nation (or at least, much of it) set about in the unfolding costume drama. It recalled the days of Hancock in the fifties, when for half an hour silence walked the pavements and then at 8.30pm doors after doors opened throwing out neighbours to share their experiences. But it wasn't the bosomy sea of Moll Flanders or Emma that swept us away; it was Euro 96, the television event of the year, the deepening wound that smiles as it scars. Lousy costumes, some dreadful like Garry McAllister on the Villa Park turf, Scottish hopes had already been brought to their knees, and it remained only for England to fulfil its manifest destiny - to fall winningly, and to focus its failure in one man, who would be forgiven and clasped to its breast. Dramatically, the final act demanded to be played this way: if England had won it would have been so less satisfying, because England is a happier place when not exultant. Television will never be like this again, hopefully, because its former role as a cultural unifier is splintering with the channels and with the decline in viewer passivity. This year's arrival of The Simpsons (BBC1) to terrestrial networks was one of the more bizarre examples of television's death as a homogenising force. For years, Rupert Murdoch had ensured that the show would only be shown to Sky subscribers. America's most dysfunctional family arrived on terrestrial television with most people only dimly aware of what all this "sat my shorts" thing was about. Instead, television mostly developed niche products. Channel 4 led the way here, with The Girls Show, surely targeted at that neglected sub-group thick narcissists who really, really want a girl's own Loaded; with The Gaby Roslin Show - a chat show that didn't seem to realise it had been estranged into obsolescence by Mrs Martin and

Alan Partridge, with the Friends-Fraser weekly themed evening with Father Ted, the only British sitcom worth the name (even though its writers and actors are all Irish). ITV had yawning chasms instead of niches - Anthea Turner's All You Need is Love, Chris Tarrant's Man O'Man. BBC2 unforgivably mangled its best programmes: Seinfeld and The Larry Sanders Show were tucked off the schedules in the spring and then instantly broadcast twice weekly in the autumn. But the most contemptible niche product was Fergie, selling herself with none of the cunning of DI on Panorama. Suddenly, she was everywhere: denying everything with Sue MacGregor on Radio 4; doing the showbiz two-step with Ruby Wax; blabbering with Jay Leno on NBC. Then she was gone, leaving nothing but relief and, one hopes, warehouses filled with unsold copies of her biography. The television event of the year should have been Dennis Potter's valedictory double act, Karaoke and Cold Lazarus. But, though they exploited the medium in ways alien to the current generation of TV writers, both were ultimately too cluttered to compel, too private in their obsessions to transcend their authors' still overbearing personality. Peter Janmary's Our Friends in the North had none of Potter's formal ambitions, instead offering a redemptive dramatised history of Britain during the last 30 years. TV dramatists still regard realism as the proper mode of expression. No one who saw Jimmy McGovern's Hillsborough, his inflicting dramatisation of the football stadium disaster, should doubt the power of such realism; no one who saw East Enders, either, the most effective soap this year, with its gay kiss and its sensitively written and acted HIV storyline, should wonder why realism still dominates the most moving television drama. Better than that the splendour of Steven Bochco's Murder One. In documentaries, realism often came second to style, typically in Stephen Lambert's Modern Times strand, sometimes sleazy and manipulative in its fly-on-the-wall techniques, but always visually sumptuous. It at least regularly achieved that touchstone of the modern documentary - quality of access, lamentably missing from Paul Beriff's Astronauts, or BBC's Defence Of The Realm. But it was old-fashioned documentaries that proved really memorable: Michael Frayn's Written On The Water, a portrait of Budapest for Omnibus; Andrew Graham-Dixon's A History Of British Painting. The nadir of British television in 1986? ITV's Durham coverage. The despatching of Thomas Hamilton's mother hours after the shootings still makes one wince. Intrusion without justification, hack journalism without the semblance of principle.

WAVE RIDING ANNE KARP

Nights of long knives

THIS WAS the year when radio personalities made the news - FORGAN RESIGNS; GAMBO SACKED! - as much as reported it, and when radio policies became as prominent as programmes. BBC Radio's annual horribleness began in February when its Controller Liz Forgan suddenly and mysteriously resigned. All became clear in June, when Britain Year Zero was announced: the BBC to turn bimodal, with radio incorporated into a series of fully-dominated departments - at BBC Radio's Christmas party TV bigwigs who've never set foot in a radio studio, let alone straddled a radio producer, could be heard declaring what a splendid little medium it is. For the BBC the year's Big Divorce wasn't that of Charles and Di but between Broadcast and Production which, in plain-speak, means chopping made-in-the-BBC programmes in favour of independently-made ones, thereby reducing rather than strengthening its claim on the licence-fee. Radio 1's Controller Matthew Bannister replaced Forgan, but insisted that he could also run Radio 1. The tabloid set upon Chris Evans for all sorts of heinous crimes rather than the real one - increasing predictability. Radio 2 got a new Controller, James Maclure, from television Light Entertainment. In pursuit of 40- and 50-year-olds to replenish his ageing audience, he signed up Steve Wright and Michael Parkinson for the weekends, while leaving the weekday schedules in the hands of old-timers like Jimmy Young. On 3 Nick Kenyon im-

PLICITLY acknowledged that he done wrong in hiring Paul Gambaccini by sacking him (Gambo didn't go quietly) and replacing him with a triumvirate of safe hands. The network began 24-hour broadcasting, the Campaign to Preserve Radio 3 continued to decry its chaffitication, but Kenyon's debut Proms were splendid, and the 50th anniversary of the Third Programme reminded us of its old treasures and produced some new ones. Radio 4 lost one Controller, Michael Green, who'd modernised the network with flair and the occasional (Anderson Country-type) whopper, and gained a new one from Radio Scotland, Iain Stewart, who promptly banned Eamon, Brother of Jesus. Woman's Hour celebrated its 50th birthday amid feeble tabloid jokes about "wimmin", and Anna Ford and Kenneth Clarke contended for the Today programme, which shed Peter Hobday amid a campaign to save him. Radio 4 comedy - from Mark Steel to the new panel show And I'm the Queen of Sheba - continued to sparkle, while a strong season of new single plays on 4 (the like of which TV hasn't mounted in a decade) included Diane Samuels's resonant Swine. Radio 5 Live won itself the Sony Station of the Year Award, a new Controller in Roger Mosey, and a sizeable audience for Euro 96. The World Service lost its battle for autonomy. On the commercial side, Talk Radio, leaking money, shocked not because of its locks but by reinventing itself yet again: out went Simon Bates, Trevor MacDonald, Jonathan King, and Anna Raeburn, in came Paul Ross, brother of the more famous Jonathan. Classic FM, also haemorrhaging money, was bought by the large group GWR and broadcast the sumptuous Russian Revelations, recordings from the Russian archives. Commercial radio became the province of big media companies, now allowed to own more than one FM licence in the same area providing they pass the Radio Authority's new "public interest" test. The future, they say, is digital, but the present is all cuts, with the attendant effect on quality. One of the most dispiriting things I heard this year came not on radio but from a senior BBC radio producer who said "We're going to have to cut so much about our programmes, it'll be hard, but eventually we'll manage it".

HAVE heard it suggested that the British theatre's reputation increasingly rests on starchy revivals of Ibsen and Chekhov. Yet the most startling fact of 1986 was the emergence of a new generation of dramatists, mostly in their twenties. Nothing like it has happened since the late 1950s, and it signals, at a time when smart-arse columnists write off the theatre, a continuing faith in the medium as a vehicle of moral protest. I saw at least a dozen plays this year by highly promising dramatists: Martin McDonagh's The Beauty Queen Of Leamane, Simon Bent's Goldhawk Road, Samuel Adamson's Clocks And Whistles, David Eldridge's Serving It Up, Mark Ravenhill's Shopping and Fucking, Nick Groose's Sweetheart, Marina Carr's Forth Coughlan, Shelagh Stephenson's The Memory Of Water, Diane Samuels's Kindertransport, Jimmy Murphy's Brothers Of The Brush, David Greig's The Architect, Ayub Khan-Din's East Is East, Brian James Ryder's The Soldier's Song. In any other country they'd be hanging out the laundry rather than talking about a dearth of new writing. Many of these plays emerged from the Royal Court and the Bush. Four of the writers are also Irish. But if any factor links an astonishingly diverse group of plays it would seem to be a cynicism about traditional family structures and a despair at the materialistic individualism of modern life. The rising generation, who in Britain have all grown up under Conservative rule, see through the hypocrisy of appeals to family values and reject the notion that self matters more than society. David Hare, in a fascinating talk given in Texas, said that young writers today are "encouraged to be unambitious". Yet their themes this year have included the Holocaust, Irish Republicanism, East End fascism, unionism and miscogeneration. No lack of ambition here. All I hope is that the dramatists escape from the confines of studio spaces and go on to write plays for bigger stages. We have an abundance of talent. What we need are more plays capable of addressing large congregations. Established dramatists also had an active year in 1986. Pinter's mesmerising Ashes To Ashes used a male-female encounter as a metaphor for European history. Bond's The Company of Men explored the sterility of the male-dominated capitalist ethic. Pam Gems's Stanley was an impressive bio-play about the equation between artistic genius and emotional immaturity. Stephen Poliakoff scored twice with Blinded By The Sun and Sweet Country. A. E. Hotchner's Reina's Art, at least raised interesting issues: if the play was hitback by the boisterous philistinism of West End audiences, who seem to assume modern art is rubbish, it wasn't the author's fault. Perhaps the most heartening sign of the year has been the recognition of Peter Whelan. For years he has been writing good plays. But The Herbal Bed is a quite exceptional play that uses the accus-

Michael Billington salutes a furious 12 months



In an astonishing year for achievement... Michael Billington salutes a furious 12 months. In an equally astonishing year for new writing, Ayub Khan-Din's East Is East (left) took the Royal Court by storm. And in a pretty fine year for established writers, Anthony Chear's Stanley (right) was a triumph for the author's Stanley. MAIN PHOTO: NICK LIBERTY

tions of adultery flung at Shakespeare's daughter to examine the virtues and vices of English puritanism. Whelan also wrote the most technically ambitious play of the year - Divine Right at Birmingham Rep - which tackled both the future of the monarchy and the state of our divided nation. It is cheering to find the 66-year-old Whelan, who takes as his credo Yeats's "hammer your thoughts into a unity", being welcomed into the Premier League. In fact, I find it impossible to despair of a medium where one theatre alone, the Royal Court, has 60 writers under commission; or indeed where work by Jez Butterworth, Sarah Kane and Martin McDonagh is getting picked up all over Europe. But it has also been a great year for Ibsen: the old bewilbered patriarch has been shown to be our contemporary in productions of John Gabriel Borkman, A Doll's House, Little Eyolf and no less than two Hedda Gablers. I just wish someone would take the plunge and explore some of the lesser-known plays: Love's Comedy, The Pillars Of Society, even Emperor and Gallien. It has also been an astonishing year for actresses. Topping the list for me was Eileen Atkins as the quasi-incestuous, non-fixed Gundild in John Gabriel Borkman. But close behind came Janet McTeer as the post-hungry Nora in A Doll's House yearning to bring the house of Helmer crashing down, Alexandra Gilbreath's spiritually solitary Hedda, Anna Massey's wily and isolated Elizabeth I in Mary Stuart, Diana Rigg's self-flourishing Martha in Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, Penelope Wilton's mercurial Madame Ranyevskaya in The Cherry Orchard and Lindsay Duncan's Rebecca in Ashes To Ashes, taking on the mantle of European suffering in their mixture of intelligence and passion. British actresses are hard to beat. It would be foolish to be too sanguine. The whole subsidised structure is threatened by yet another year of standstill grants. While some regional theatres are consistently adventurous others fall into identical programming. I find it particularly sad that Oxford Playhouse and the refurbished Cambridge Arts, which once originated their own work and which have an undergraduate audience on their doorstep, now seem to be interchangeable receiving theatres. New plays are also increasingly rare in the West End unless they have gilt-edged star names. But arasing memories of the year's horrors - Les Enfants du Paradis, Tolstoy, even Miller's Midsummer Night's Dream - it has not been a bad 12 months. And the most important development has been the emergence of a new generation committed to theatre as a means of registering dismay at the malaise of modern Britain. In recent years I had begun to feel that British theatre was living off its glorious past. But 1986 showed that it still speaks to the young and that the corruption and exhaustion of the times has bred a countervailing moral revulsion. Our society may be in decline: our theatre however, for all its financial problems, seems to be quickening into new life.

Andrew Clements pays homage to Kurtag and Terfel The tenor of the times

NOTHING demonstrates more how the best can be brought down to earth with a crash or just as swiftly redden themselves than the fortunes of two opera companies in 1986. The Royal Opera's staging of the French version of Verdi's Don Carlo, shared with the Paris Chatelet, would have been a highlight in any year, sparsely elegantly directed by Luc Bondy, with not a movement or a gesture out of place. It boasted a cast that would have been hard to better anywhere in the world, with Roberto Alagna at his most persuasive in the title role, and Karita Mattila movingly eloquent as Elisabeth. Then two months later came Covent Garden's other new production in its ongoing Verdi cycle - a travesty of the early Giovanni D'Anna perpetrated by Philip Prowse that manage to fall at virtually every dramatic level. It was hard to credit the two shows could have emerged from the same organisation. In the autumn Scottish Opera brought off the same trick in reverse, presenting the premiere of Ines De Castro, James MacMillan's first full-length stage work, at the Edinburgh Festival, which dramatically and musically was an object lesson in how not to compose an opera in the 1980s, and then opening its main season with a beautifully sung production of Mozart's Idomeneo, by David MacVicar, that showed how much dramatic intensity and clarity could be achieved on the slenderest of budgets, given a director with a genuine visual and dramatic imagination. Opera North had its extremes too - an extravagantly amateurish, badly sung Madame Butterfly from the young Lithuanian director, Dalia Ielhaupaitis was swiftly followed by a revival of Deborah Warner's three-year-old Wozzeck, with a cast led by Andrew Shore and Josephine Barstow, that seemed even more singular and desperate than before. English National Opera accrued lots of brownie points by putting on the first ever British staging of Zimmernann's hugely complex Die Soldaten, and otherwise had a rela-

personal survey of 20th-century music for Channel 4 which failed to deliver quite what it promised, and lacked both the comprehensiveness and the vividness of presentation that such an ambitious project demanded. Rattle's announcement that he is to leave his post with the City of Birmingham Symphony next summer was a shock but not a surprise, and his departure, destination still unknown, leaves a hole in the British orchestral scene. The London orchestras had a thoroughly respectable year, with the Philharmonia producing outstanding results with their new music director-designate Christoph Von Dohnanyi in concert performances at the Festival Hall of Schoenberg's Moses Und Aron, and Stravinsky's Oedipus Rex, the London Philharmonic muddling along without a conductor at the helm, and the London Symphony consolidating their relationship with Colin Davis at the Barbican. Best orchestral concert of them all, though, was the last event in this year's Edinburgh Festival, given by the Orchestra of the Age

Royal Academy of Arts exhibition advertisement for 'Living Bridges'. The ad features a large photograph of a bridge model and text: 'Over 115,000 have seen Living Bridges and designs for a new Thames Bridge. Exhibition extended until 5 January 1997'. It lists 'Superb models of bridges real and fantastic' and 'Living Bridges' also includes the Thames Water Habitable Bridge Competition. It mentions seven architects exhibit their designs for a new inhabited Thames crossing. The exhibition is on Sunday 7-10pm. It is supported by the Corporation of London and the Générale des Eaux Group in association with The Independent. The exhibition was realised with the Centre Georges Pompidou, (MAMM-CCH). 'Living Bridges' includes the Thames Water Habitable Bridge Competition.

Cross-country

Brown lives up to White Kenyan tag

Duncan Mackay on a British runner determined to make Africa take notice

JON BROWN took the quick path from being just another talented athlete in Europe to being the best cross-country runner outside Africa with his outstanding performance in the European Championships two weeks ago.

The 25-year-old skipped across the glistening mud of the Mouscou sur Sambre in Charleroi to become the first British man to win a major cross-country gold medal since Ian Stewart lifted the world title in 1975.

It is doubtful if there had been a more dominating performance by a British athlete all year as Brown finished 35 seconds clear of Paulo Guerra of Portugal, winner of the title in 1994 and 1995. It would be easy to dismiss Brown's victory as coming against second-rate opposition but, beside Guerra, most of the rest of the cream of European cross-country running also lined up in the Belgian mining town.

Perhaps even more significantly, though, the previous week Brown had beaten Kenya's Paul Tergat, the twice world cross-country champion, by 15 seconds in a race in Spain.

Today, in the televised Bupa County Durham cross-country, Brown will take on Tergat's compatriot, Daniel Komen, and last year's winner, Assefa Mezgebu of Ethiopia in another test of how far he has come this year.

Victory over Komen, the world 3,000 metres record-holder who was recently accorded the status of the best distance runner in the world by the International Amateur Athletic Federation, would cap a fine year which has also seen Brown finish as first European in the World Cross-country Championships in Cape Town in March and 10th in the Olympic 10,000m in Atlanta.

"I'm running a superb race in Belgium," said David Clarke, Great Britain's team manager. "Here was an athlete who, 12 months before, felt there had been a change in cross-country running in Britain and he wanted to be part of it."

"He came back into the fold and the benefits he enjoyed were obvious when he ran so well in Atlanta. He certainly did his bit to put British distance running back on track." Brown will be seeking to become the first British man to win the Durham race since Eamonn Martin in 1990. Paula Radcliffe, on the other hand, will be looking for her third women's victory in four years. But she faces an equally stiff task in meeting Celia Wain, the world champion from Ethiopia.

Brown has travelled the world in search of the training, races and lifestyle that would mould him into a champion. From Bridgend, where he was born, he has inherited an inner drive the Welsh call *hynl*. From the United States, where he was university educated, he has come to understand that only winners matter.

From Germany, where he has lived with his Duisburg-born wife, he has come to appreciate that the work ethic does pay. And from his Sheffield upbringing he has learnt to call a spade a bloody great shovel.

He has fallen out on several occasions with the British Athletic Federation and upset some of his peers earlier this year when he said many British distance runners lack ambition.

Brown has never suffered fools gladly. At Iowa State University he is remembered as the hardest trainer on campus, nicknamed the White Kenyan by his team-mates for the ferocity of his workouts.

After his victory in Charleroi the four Euro initially declined to lift the trophy above his head for the traditional winner's photograph. "Jon Brown is definitely not British cross-country's answer to Linnor Christie," one Belgian newspaper snarled next day.

Brown is not getting carried away about his first race since that victory. "I think it will be interesting," he said. "Everything is going fine and I'm looking forward to the race immensely. But the Europeans, not this, were my main priority. My big target is to finish in the top six at the World Cross-country Championships in Turin in March."

But, if Brown can hang the scalp of Komen around his belt today, Africa really will have to sit up and take notice of the White Kenyan.



Iron man... Brown (No. 58) on his way to winning the European Championships this month. PHOTOGRAPH: MARK SHEARMAN

Rugby Union

Pienaar set to shine for Saracens

Robert Armstrong

FRANÇOIS PIENAAR'S first appearance for Saracens is expected to attract a crowd of more than 8,000 to today's Courage League match against Orrell at Enfield.

South Africa's World Cup captain, who has a contract worth around £300,000 over the next 18 months, has taken part in three training sessions with his new team-mates since flying in from Johannesburg last weekend.

Pienaar will take the field alongside Michael Lynagh and Philippe Sala with the prospect of Nelson Mandela to spur him on to fresh achievements. The Transvaal flanker, who did not decide to sign for Saracens until he had sought the advice of South Africa's president, is treating his time in England as an opportunity to serve as an unofficial ambassador.

Saracens have assembled one of the most talented back rows in the league now that Pienaar has linked up with the prospective England forwards Tony Diprose and Richard Hill. The presence of the charismatic Pienaar is expected to act as a magnet for ambitious young players.

Orrell are without two first-choice backs, the wing Nigel Heddon (required on police duty) and the fly-half Matt McCarthy, who was concussed a week ago. However, their Pilkington Cup victory over the big-spending Bedford may convince the Merseyside club that they are good enough to overcome another team built by heavy investment in the transfer market.

Another major London fixture sees the recall of Rory Underwood and the lock Matt Poole to the Leicester line-up for the clash with Harlequins at The Stoop. Poole has recovered from a knee injury which sidelined him for six weeks and Underwood takes the place of the injured Leon Lloyd, who switches to centre to cover for the injured Stuart Potter. Like Potter, Rob Liley is missing with a shoulder problem which enables the Irishman Niall Malone to return at fly-half.

Having won their last three

games at The Stoop, Leicester will aim to consolidate their position as league leaders with another victory over the early-season pace-setters. In theory the Tigers could win all four competitions in which they are still involved, while Quins, notwithstanding their major signings and high-scoring wins, are in danger of missing out on the lot.

Cavin Welsh, a tight-head prop from New Zealand, makes his league debut for Northampton against Wasps at Loftus Road, Welsh, who has played for Auckland and North Harbour, displaces the new Scotland cap Matt Stewart.

The Saints are without the scrum-half Matthew Dawson and the centre Jonathan Bell due to injury and there are also doubts over the fitness of the Scotland captain Gregor Townsend. However, the centre Matt Allen returns.

Sale expect to beat the bad weather for tomorrow's all-ticket clash with Bath at Heywood Road after spending £2,000 on renting frost-free covers. The Cheshire club have used the thermal sheeting for the past three weeks; a 4,500 capacity crowd will help them defray the extra expense.

The Welsh three-quarter John Devereux is Sale's main doubt with a hamstring injury received a week ago. Their captain Jim Mallinder returns at full-back, having recovered from a dead leg.



Pienaar... charismatic

Darts

Taylor made for a place in history as Priestley gets ready to say his prayers

PHIL TAYLOR will be battling a fifth title and a record prize of £45,000 when he begins his defence of the World Championship, which begins today at the famous Circus Tavern in Purfleet, Essex.

Taylor, 38, won the official Embassy world title in 1990 and 1992 and then broke away with 15 of the other top players to form the World Darts Council.

Since then Taylor has won the council's version of the world title for the past two years and, if he wins again next week, he will equal the feat of Eric Bristow, who won the Embassy championship five times between 1980 and 1985.

Bristow's achievement, however, is considered the greater. That is because some 7,000 players begin in the qualifying rounds of the Embassy, compared to less than 200 in the WDC version.

Nevertheless Taylor and Dennis Priestley, the top seed at Purfleet, are still recognised as the top two players in the sport.

Taylor, who is ranked second only because he has played fewer tournaments than Priestley, is not worried about comparing the two world championships.

"As far as I am concerned, 111 win at Purfleet next week I shall have won my fifth world title and I will have equalled Eric Bristow's record," he said. "That's my goal. We have had three WDC world championships and I was runner-up to Dennis in 1994 and won in 1995 and 1996, so my record speaks for itself."

"I've won the last six or seven tournaments I've played in this year and I've played Dennis four times and beaten him every time."

A total of 24 players, split into eight groups of three,

competes for the title with £96,000 in total prize-money at stake. There is £1,000 for the highest check-out and £25,000 for anyone who achieves a nine-dart.

"I'll be lost for words for the first time in my life if I do it," said Taylor. "But I know he has got a lot of money on his to win again."

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Hockey

Top juniors take a break

THE new National Hockey Stadium at Milton Keynes hosts the Women's Junior Territorial tournament over the weekend but there will be no opportunity to see several outstanding under-21 players.

Maggie Soulyave, the women's world champion, was advised to take a break while they can, knowing that a hectic year faces those likely to play in the European Under-21 indoor finals in the Czech Republic next month and the World Junior Championships in Korea in September.

Midlands, who regained the territorial title from East at Rotherham last year, are the one team who can probably afford a few absences. They provide nearly half the players in the England Under-21 development squad yet suffer less from withdrawals than the other territories.

Midlands have 10 players with National League experience and can call on the powerful Olton quartet of Jennie Blinson, Kerry Moore and the Wright sisters, Sally and Lucilla.

East meet Midlands in the opener today without their senior internationals Kirsty Bowden and Purdy Miller (withdrawn) and Caroline Gilbert (injured). North cannot call on Annalisa Bishop and Helen Grant while West and Denise Mackintosh.

Midlands start as favourites to equal East's record six championships.

Weekend fixtures

Table listing various sports fixtures including FA Cup, Premier League, and other regional competitions.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

Table listing fixtures for the Nationwide League, including Premier Division and other divisions.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE

Table listing fixtures for the Bell's Scottish League, including Premier Division and other divisions.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

Table listing fixtures for the Scottish League, including First Division and other divisions.

Results

Table listing sports results from various leagues and competitions.

Sport in brief

Drugs in sport: Fifty leading sports officials, including administrators, doctors and coaches, from former East Germany are to be charged with botchy harm for supplying competitors with banned performance-enhancing drugs.

American Football

Pittsburgh, San Francisco and Dallas also expect to be in the NFL play-offs; between them they have won 14 Super Bowl championships. What they do not expect is to be playing in the first round, which where they are this weekend.

Cricket

Winter Tour - Zimbabwe Day International For regular score Updates call 0800 22 88 29

Large advertisement on the right side of the page, partially cut off, featuring the text 'oker of the' and 'waste car'.

# Joker pick of the pack

### Ron Cox rates Kettlewell's chaser one step ahead of the handicapper

**G**IVEN the rise in temperature necessary for today's Newcastle meeting, Steve Kettlewell's Esby Joker is expected to withstand a rise in the ratings to continue his winning run in the Gosforth Park Handicap Chase.

At the start of last season Esby Joker won off a lowly mark of 98 at Hexham. He runs off 129 this afternoon, but Steve Kettlewell's eight-year-old was good value for a length and a half win off 123 at Newcastle last month, and he looks capable of defying the handicapper again.



Easy does it... Esby Joker displays the jumping technique which can pay dividends again at Newcastle today

# Dunwoody makes Merry at Leopardstown

**R**ICHARD DUNWOODY maintained his rich vein of form when he rode Merry Gale to victory in the McCain Handicap Chase at Leopardstown yesterday.

Merry Gale has had to battle with a breathing problem for much of his career but a second operation during the summer seems to have done the trick.

Fourth to Master Oats in last year's Cheltenham Gold Cup, he could have another crack at chasing's premier event but Jim Dwyer, his trainer, is not convinced he stays the three and a quarter miles.

The big race of the day was the Paddy Power Handicap Chase which went to the favourite New Co, ridden by Conor O'Dwyer.

# Collier lined up for bonus

**C**OLLIER BAY, the reigning champion hurdler, and Alderbrook, last year's winner of the Cheltenham race, could clash at Sandown next Saturday.

The pair are likely to be attracted by the Pertemps Hurdle which has been added to the Sandown card following the abandonment of Kempton yesterday.

Collier Bay was not entered in the Kempton contest because he is unsuited to the Sandown track but it was in a similar race at Sandown, the Bountisprint Limited Handicap Hurdle this January, that he launched his championship-winning season.

## Newcastle card with guide to the form

1.00 Sea Victor	2.00 ELIA MATA (new)
1.50 Squirrels	2.50 Squirrels
2.00 Esby Joker	2.50 Squirrels

## Leopardstown runners and riders

1.00 Sea Victor	2.00 ELIA MATA (new)
1.50 Squirrels	2.50 Squirrels
2.00 Esby Joker	2.50 Squirrels

## Wolverhampton (A.W.) with form for the Jackpot races

1.00 Sea Victor	2.00 ELIA MATA (new)
1.50 Squirrels	2.50 Squirrels
2.00 Esby Joker	2.50 Squirrels

## Collier Bay and Alderbrook

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## 1.00 Leopardstown Race

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1.50 Squirrels	2.50 Squirrels
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## 1.00 Collier Bay and Alderbrook

1.00 Sea Victor	2.00 ELIA MATA (new)
1.50 Squirrels	2.50 Squirrels
2.00 Esby Joker	2.50 Squirrels

## 2.00 Newcastle Race

1.00 Sea Victor	2.00 ELIA MATA (new)
1.50 Squirrels	2.50 Squirrels
2.00 Esby Joker	2.50 Squirrels

## 2.00 Leopardstown Race

1.00 Sea Victor	2.00 ELIA MATA (new)
1.50 Squirrels	2.50 Squirrels
2.00 Esby Joker	2.50 Squirrels

## 2.00 Wolverhampton Race

1.00 Sea Victor	2.00 ELIA MATA (new)
1.50 Squirrels	2.50 Squirrels
2.00 Esby Joker	2.50 Squirrels

## 2.00 Collier Bay and Alderbrook

1.00 Sea Victor	2.00 ELIA MATA (new)
1.50 Squirrels	2.50 Squirrels
2.00 Esby Joker	2.50 Squirrels

## 3.00 Newcastle Race

1.00 Sea Victor	2.00 ELIA MATA (new)
1.50 Squirrels	2.50 Squirrels
2.00 Esby Joker	2.50 Squirrels

## 3.00 Leopardstown Race

1.00 Sea Victor	2.00 ELIA MATA (new)
1.50 Squirrels	2.50 Squirrels
2.00 Esby Joker	2.50 Squirrels

## 3.00 Wolverhampton Race

1.00 Sea Victor	2.00 ELIA MATA (new)
1.50 Squirrels	2.50 Squirrels
2.00 Esby Joker	2.50 Squirrels

## 3.00 Collier Bay and Alderbrook

1.00 Sea Victor	2.00 ELIA MATA (new)
1.50 Squirrels	2.50 Squirrels
2.00 Esby Joker	2.50 Squirrels

## 4.00 Newcastle Race

1.00 Sea Victor	2.00 ELIA MATA (new)
1.50 Squirrels	2.50 Squirrels
2.00 Esby Joker	2.50 Squirrels

## 4.00 Leopardstown Race

1.00 Sea Victor	2.00 ELIA MATA (new)
1.50 Squirrels	2.50 Squirrels
2.00 Esby Joker	2.50 Squirrels

## 4.00 Wolverhampton Race

1.00 Sea Victor	2.00 ELIA MATA (new)
1.50 Squirrels	2.50 Squirrels
2.00 Esby Joker	2.50 Squirrels

## 4.00 Collier Bay and Alderbrook

1.00 Sea Victor	2.00 ELIA MATA (new)
1.50 Squirrels	2.50 Squirrels
2.00 Esby Joker	2.50 Squirrels

Soccer

Victory against Arsenal and a Boxing Day thrashing. John Lawson finds a lion-hearted learning management's ups and downs

# Forest stirred by Pearce pride

THE muscle-packed thighs and steely glare that made opposition players cower in unshamed respect and honest-to-goodness fear are not quite the same force as they were when Stuart Pearce was pumping up Nottingham Forest to bursting point.

If Brian Clough was the lifeblood of a club that has flared successfully with the best, then Psycho himself was the heartbeat. And what a heart.

Not many players even considered the painful prospect of trying to block one of the full-back's marauding, buccannering runs. All they saw was eyes fixed like bayonets, shining tattoos that could have been stamped SAS and a single-minded determination to win at all costs.

With his 35th birthday looming in April, the runs are not so frequent or penetrating these days but the passion that burns inside Pearce still demands and commands respect wherever he plays.

It was to that respect, that commitment, that determination not to concede defeat that Forest, not surprisingly, turned in their greatest hour of need eight days ago.

Anyone with an inkling of day-to-day life at the City Ground will say that it was only a question of when Pearce would manage the club that has been his working life for 11 years or more. The question of whether he would one day boss the club he has played for with such distinction was never really an issue.

The timing could have been better for all concerned but it was hastened by the predicament that Forest had got themselves into, dashing headlong towards the Nationwide League at a quicker rate than desperate shoppers demanding cash for the sales.

Frank Clark, all honesty and integrity, had tried his best to stir some reaction from a side that not only had failed to win in 16 league starts but was beginning to falter in the end of the week that went down in Clough's last season.

For all Clark's admirable qualities, he knew he could not provide the resuscitation levels needed to get Forest back on their feet quickly enough to stand any chance of retaining an increasingly coveted Premiership place.

He also knew — to his credit — that the inspirational quality that he perhaps lacked in his dignified manner was present in the man who has replaced him, temporarily or otherwise.

That is why Clark had no hesitation in recommending to the Forest directors when he was leaving that they

should give Stuart a try. A few hours later, after deep conversation with his wife and close friends, Pearce installed himself in the madhouse of management. Whether he decides to continue in mid-January, when Forest's protracted takeover plans might be shrouded in less mystery, is debatable.

For all we know, Pearce's England career, brought out of self-inflicted retirement by Glenn Hoddle earlier this season, might well be over. But no one should underestimate how important representing his country is to him. The arm-waving antics, the screaming delight and uncontrollable tears are the real thing when it comes to his three-lion emotions.

Prolonging his playing career with Forest is not far behind in the priority stakes. He is rattling on past 500 appearances for the club and approaching 100 goals since Clough picked him up for a song from Coventry in May 1985.

By Clough's own admission, Pearce was the one who did the "picking up" after that. He reveals: "When Peary rolls up his sleeves, hitches up his shorts and goes into battle, you can't have anyone better on your side.

"There were times when we were in need of a bit of an all-round lift and you could almost bank on him picking up the crowd and the team. I know one bloody thing, he certainly picked me up.

"I used to watch full-backs whack the ball forward in Peary's direction and when he chested it down and set off on one of those galloping runs of his, the poor lad who had just got rid of the damned thing would be saying, 'Oh God, here he comes again.'

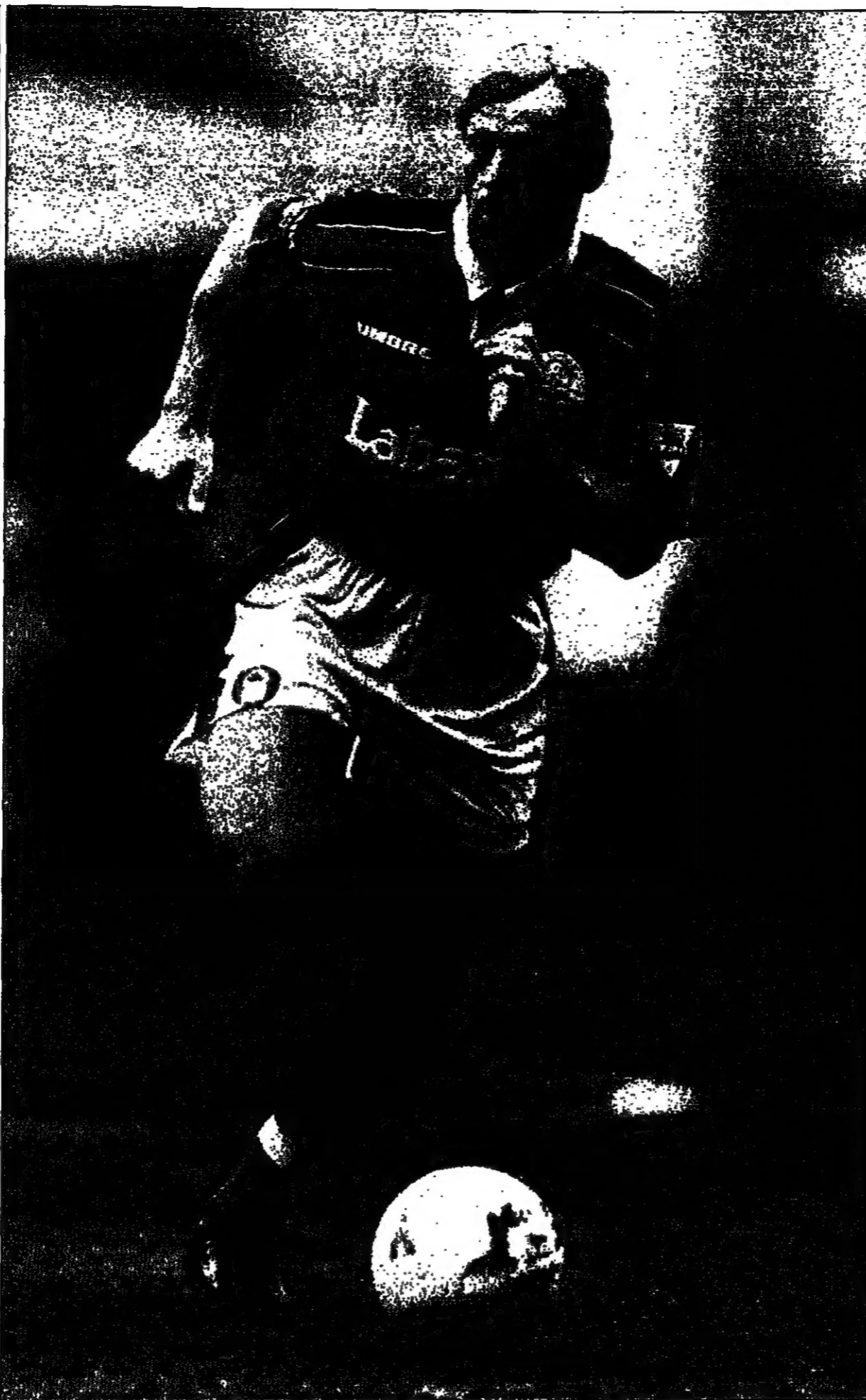
"You could see the horror bursting through the expressions on their faces."

Whether Pearce can go on lifting Forest remains to be seen but he made a good start against Arsenal even if Manchester United ruined his Boxing Day.

It was inevitable in the wake of Clark's departure and Pearce's clenched-fisted appointment that there would be some reaction in his first game. Forest came from behind to beat Arsenal and outwit Arsène Wenger who, despite his deep knowledge of the game, had not appreciated the influence that Pearce can bring to bear by the River Trent. If Clough could walk across it, Pearce could almost make it halfway.

United, however, ripped up the script and further questions of Pearce's managerial fitness, had not appreciated the influence that Pearce can bring to bear by the River Trent. If Clough could walk across it, Pearce could almost make it halfway.

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Bursting with passion... Pearce has always been ready to give his all for Forest and England PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID MUNDEN

giving up the playing side prematurely.

But there will be some agonising before he makes up his mind about continuing the managerial job. Pearce will weigh things up next month and decide what is right for him and his wife Liz.

It took a pizza advert to persuade the watching nation that Pearce's wit is as sharp as his tackles, and he knows he will need more than a little humour in the weeks and maybe months and years ahead.

Pearce values his private life and finds relaxation at contrasting ends of the league.

scale. He has an increasing love of working with horses — his wife introduced him to the equestrian life — yet he still enjoys letting his hair down with the punk-rock fraternity in which he has many friends. It is a peculiar mix but it works for him.

He switches off from football when he goes out of the main gates as quickly as he will switch on this afternoon.

It is not so easy to do that in his now role but the football folk of Nottingham hope that their latter-day Robin Hood will stay in management long enough to steer Forest out of the woods.

# Bierhoff has eye on move to Ewood

ALTHOUGH the Swedish coach Eriksson is unlikely to take control at Blackburn until July because of contractual obligations to his present club Sampdoria, he has been told he can begin spending immediately the estimated £20 million which has been made available for new players.

Any transfer would be delayed until after Bierhoff has a minor ankle operation early next month.

Everton have filed in an attempt to sign Leeds United's former England international Carlton Palmer.

With his first-team squad ravaged by injuries, Everton's manager Joe Royle asked his Leeds counterpart George Graham to consider a £1.5 million offer for Palmer, who arrived at Milland Road from Sheffield Wednesday for £2.5 million in 1994.

Royle may be forced to name a side lacking six regular first-team players against Wimbledon at Goodison Park this afternoon. But he said that he had not considered calling off the game, something Middlesbrough controversially did last weekend when they declined to play at Blackburn because of similar problems.

Coventry's veteran goalkeeper Steve Ogilvie will break his club's appearance record when they meet Middlesbrough at Highfield Road today.

Ogilvie, 39, will play his 544th game for the Sky Blues, eclipsing the mark set by the former Coventry centre-half George Curtis in 1970.

Coventry's manager Gordon Strachan said of Ogilvie: "He trains more than anyone in the club and when I told the players he'd equalled George Curtis's record on Boxing Day, they stood and applauded."

# Baggio loses £2.4 million in alleged savings swindle

ROBERTO BAGGIO has said other Italian soccer players had put money in the company but added that Baggio was the single biggest investor, placing between £1.2 million and £2.4 million.

Corriere della Sera said finance police were considering opening their own inquiries to see if investors had paid taxes on funds.

The alleged swindle has come at a bad time for the 29-year-old Baggio. He has spent much of the season on the bench at Milan and has quarrelled with Arrigo Sacchi, who returned as coach at the San Siro earlier this month.

Bayer Munich are to make a fresh offer for Stuttgart's disenchanted Brazilian striker Giovanni Elber, a move that could pave the way for Jürgen Klinsmann to leave.

Bayer's president Franz Beckenbauer, aware that Elber had received offers from abroad, said his club would reopen negotiations and was confident that the Brazilian would move to Munich next season.

Stuttgart rejected a Bayern offer of around \$3.8 million for Elber a year ago.

# Thousands back Old Trafford's title charge

est has established them as the form horses and today they have a further chance to sneak up on the rails by beating Leeds at Old Trafford. Ferguson must decide whether to start with Andy Cole, who proved his return to fitness with a superb goal against Forest, or persist with Ole Gunnar Solskjær, another Boxing Day marksman.

Whatever happens today, the title race promises to be the most open for years, at least since yesterday led Chelsea's

manager Ruud Gullit to suggest that standards in the Premiership have improved sharply this season. "It is becoming better with more teams challenging for the title. It's very open," he said.

"Perhaps it's because there are more foreigners now, maybe because of the way England played in Euro 96. There's a great deal more attention on the Premiership from abroad now. The standard is certainly better. Clubs are spending money to try to get results, and that's got to be good."

Gullit's signing of Gianfranco Zola looks to be one of the season's shrewdest deals

and the Italian will be looking to add to his tally of four goals in four games against Sheffield Wednesday at Stamford Bridge today.

"It wasn't easy for Franco at the start, because he was living in a hotel rather than his own home, and couldn't get his own rhythm," said Gullit. "Now he is at home, feels appreciated and that the team appreciates him, and that's what he needs."

But Chelsea will do well to beat Wednesday who are unbeaten in 10 games, eight of them draws.

Arsenal are among those who have failed to breach their defence — Arsène Wenger's side drew 0-0 at Hillsborough on Boxing Day — and require a 3-0 victory over Aston Villa to go back to the top, at least until Liverpool visit Southampton tomorrow.

Newcastle are among those struggling to ring in a cheerful new year after a dismal run which has yielded only seven points from nine games. Another defeat by Spurs at St James' Park today will ask serious questions of a team who have yet to fire this season.

Although Newcastle's assistant manager Terry McDermott yesterday admitted that the team were "not playing

# Scottish preview

contesting an option clause of the contract he signed for the Tennant club as a teenager.

Hannah has been highly rated for some years but his dispute with United has restricted his appearances, although he did score the second goal in the 2-0 victory over Motherwell on Boxing Day. Now he is likely to make his Celtic debut in today's home match against Dunfermline.

McStay's absence with an ankle injury — coinciding with that of Phil O'Donnell, who returned last week — has left Celtic seriously deficient in midfield and his return this afternoon prompted a glowing tribute from Burns.

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TheGuardian INTERACTIVE

## Team sheet

**Arsenal v Aston Villa**  
Plot is ruled out by a hamstring strain but Vieira returns after suspension and will partner his fellow Frenchman Gallas in the central midfield. The Gunners are hoping that Digne will be fit, while Morrison and Newton are expected to shuttle off benches picked up in the goalless draw at Sheffield Wednesday. Villa have drawn over the fitness of their striker Markel Susaeta and midfielder Steve Draper (groin) and Taylor (knee).

**Chelsea v Sheffield Wed**  
Latham and Wise are free from suspension but may have to wait for their returns to a Chelsea side who have their last two games. The Dutch winger Bilkowski returns to the Wednesday line-up as they try to extend their 10-match unbeaten run; the striker Booth may return in place of Hirst.

**Coventry v Middlesbrough**  
The Coventry keeper Ogilvie will set a club record in what will be his 544th game, overthrowing the former Celtic half George Curtis. The side are likely to be unchanged after three straight wins. How will be without their Scottish central defender Wylie, who starts a two-match suspension, Wylie starting over.

**Derby v Blackburn**  
Stimson received a dead leg in Derby's defeat at Sunderland but should be fit, while Ansonovic was ruled out but could return for Dally. Blackburn's defender Hendry has a red on a dead leg while Fitzhugh is again missing with an ankle injury.

**Everton v Wimbledon**  
Everton are without Hirst, who has a broken hand, but their captain Westwood has a rib injury and cancelled to back their defender McMillan.

**Leicester v Middlesbrough**  
Leicester's defender Karamoko is out with a hamstring strain, meaning a call-up for Lewis, while Lawson is doubtful with a bruised leg. George has a nose injury but is likely to play behind Forest's front line.

**Milan v Leeds**  
Calle hopes to set a place in the United team but his old boy Chelsea has a groin injury and is set to miss his first possible return to Old Trafford. Yalovici is still claiming for a start in a Leeds side, while Dorogi could make his first full appearance this season after injury.

**Newcastle v Tottenham**  
The Newcastle defender Pascoe has a broken foot and O'Connell a groin strain but both are set to play. Tottenham's Scott has a sprained ankle and is expected to be out, while the striker and midfielder Coppell has an ankle problem, he is expected to make the side.

**West Ham v Sunderland**  
West Ham could be without the injured Leacock, Orsaker and Jones. As United has a broken ankle, the captain Hughton is out, and both could be missing but, although Coppell has an ankle problem, he is expected to make the side.

**TOMORROW**  
**Sunderland v Liverpool**  
Leather returns to take the place of Macdonald who has an ankle injury. Liverpool are hoping Fowler will return after missing a week with an ankle injury, allowing them to replace Berger back into the midfield of the reserves' team.

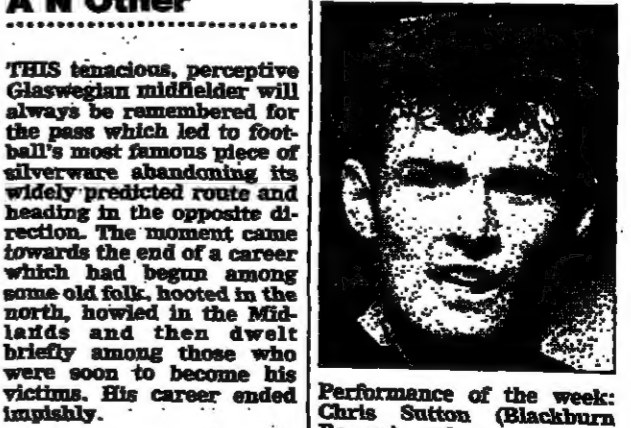
## Celtic sign Hannah and have McStay back

**Patrick Glenn**

ON THE day that Celtic's manager Tommy Burns bought David Hannah, the former Scotland under-21 midfielder, from Dundee United for £600,000 he revealed that the club captain Paul McStay would return to the first team after four months' absence.

Negotiations for Hannah, 23, were completed last night. United's chairman Jim McLean has always been an unwilling seller, especially to direct competitors, but Hannah is a special case.

The player was bringing a court case against United,



Performance of the week: Chris Sutton (Blackburn Rovers), whose all-round excellence against Newcastle on Thursday did much to spoil Alan Shearer's return to Ewood Park.

مكتبة من الامم

Cricket

Flower joins the drivers to distraction

Paul Allott sees a Zimbabwe batsman show England what they should have done in Harare

DO NOT blame Zimbabwe for a tedious day's cricket: their batsmen were doing the job that England's top order failed to do.

For England's bowlers on this dead-slow pitch frustration was beginning to mount even before the rain. The nightmares may not have been fuelled by Grant Flower's three-hour 30, more by the spectre of a defeat built on attrition. But there is time even for England to win - and there is heaps of rain about.

When batsmen set out to occupy the crease to the complete exclusion of any run-scoring intent, the bowlers can verge on hallucination, imagining bats three feet wide, pads the size of mattresses and stumps resembling matchsticks.

It is a hard, but obvious, prerequisite (barring declarations) to take 20 wickets in a game to stand a chance of winning and obdurate batting on lifeless pitches has made folk heroes of a series of unlikely individuals in Test and county cricket: Chris Tavare, David Steele, Larry Gomes, Alan Hill and even the present England manager John Barclay.



On guard... an unhappy Atherton waits in vain for the obdurate Flower to show signs of willing

David Steele, in 1975 and 1978 against Australia and West Indies, characterised the bulldog spirit by defying the world's quickest fast bowlers almost exclusively by playing them off the front foot. His sponsorship consisted of steaks and chops from his local butcher for each run scored. Mad Cow never, but mad batsman perhaps.

When exasperation finally comes for the bowler it is not the batsman's technique or approach that is mentally haunting. It is the stupid things that get to him - like Tavare's walk round short leg after each ball or the fact that he never seemed to trim that unkempt and ridiculous moustache.

It was always Steele's spectating as he grained inopportunely at one from 20 yards, with the sun glinting off the shiny frames. He was probably trying to dazzle the bowlers with reflected sunlight; and in any case no one fights in spectacles.

Gomes used to make one bowl so wide of off stump that one was in danger of hitting gully. One never bowled that wide at anyone else. And as for good old Alan "Bud" Hill of Derbyshire, if his stance did not have one in fits, then his limpet-like performance usually drove one to tears.

Botham can remember only one instance of obdurate batting against him. The present England manager - Trout to his mates - is now adept at straight-batting the media at question time but he once batted for two sessions against Botham and mustered only 17. As they left the field together at tea Barclay turned to Botham and in his best old Etonian said: "Was I really frightfully boring, Ian?" To which Botham retorted: "Boring, yes, Trout, but frightfully isn't the right word."



Chain reaction... Shivnarine Chanderpaul is caught and bowled by Australia's Glenn McGrath, who finished the day on an impressive five for 40

Australia v West Indies: third Test, second day

McGrath's high five keep Australia alive

Andy Wilson in Melbourne

NO DISRESPECT to Guy Whittall but, if England cannot handle him and the rest of the Zimbabwe pace attack, what chance do they have against Glenn McGrath next summer?

Another five-wicket haul, including Brian Lara for the fourth time in the series, shattered West Indies' hopes of a decent first-innings lead. They finished 14 ahead with one wicket left and McGrath is within two wickets of matching Shane Warne by reaching a century in his 23rd Test.

After playing a crucial part in Australia's second Test victory on his home ground in Sydney McGrath relished bowling on an MCG pitch exploited by Curtly Ambrose on the first day, one which he rates "the best wicket in Australia for the quicks". He may not quite have Ambrose's pace but he manages to be just as hostile by hitting the pitch and bowling a relentless line. In contrast to the ageing Ambrose he holds his own in this marvellous Australian fielding side: a natural athlete, McGrath contributed a sharp run-out and a brilliant return catch to dismiss Carl Hooper and Shivnarine Chanderpaul respectively.

from the crowd (a mere 32,000 for the second day) and started nervously, taking 13 balls to get off the mark. It was Taylor who already introduced McGrath, who greeted Lara with a honour from around the wicket. Four balls later he found the thick edge of Lara's angled bat and Warne took a simple catch midway between second slip and gully.

"Brian likes to play his shots and to have room to play them," explained McGrath. "So we like to keep him cramped up and occasionally bowl one that little bit wider."

Hooper's dismissal, even by his own standards, was impressive. A lucky drive fell just short of McGrath at mid-on, he called a crazy single and was out by a yard.

Chanderpaul was left in his familiar role, holding the innings together, and as usual batted manfully to reach his third half-century of the series and his 11th in 21 Test

innings. But after 209 watchful minutes he was punished for an upish on-drive when McGrath struck out his long left arm and clung to a one-handed catch.

West Indies were 107 for five, still 112 behind, but then Junior Murray joined Jimmy Adams to dominate a sixth-wicket stand of 90. The manager Clive Lloyd had been considering promoting Murray to open after his 86 as a pinch-hitter set up a one-day win over Pakistan in Adelaide.

It would have been a gamble, as Murray's technique ranges from unorthodox to ugly. But he could not have done much worse than Samuels, and a quick 50 at the top of the order would have maintained West Indies' Ambrose-inspired revival.

Scoreboard

Table with columns for team names and scores. Includes Australia's first innings (218) and West Indies' first innings (107).

Benjamin was out before the close, the only wicket for Paul Reffel, who bowled 29 overs after Jason Gillespie had been forced out of the match, and probably the series, with a side strain early in the day.

With the prospect of facing Warne in the third innings looming large for West Indies, who closed on 233 for nine, the advantage has swung significantly to Australia.

India rolled over by Donald's pace

AN impressive spell of fast bowling by Allan Donald gave South Africa a stranglehold on the first Test against India in Durban yesterday. Spearheading a four-man pace attack he took five for 40 as India were routed in 39.1 overs for 100, their lowest Test total against South Africa.

Donald gave South Africa a first-innings lead of 135 and the opener Andrew Hudson, who made 80 first time around, and Adam Becher built on that with a second-wicket partnership of 111, enabling the home side to close on 164 for four in their second innings.

While India had the better of the first day, dismissing South Africa for 236, their batsmen always struggled on a pitch offering pace and bounce. Donald bowled with hostility for his seventh five-wicket haul at Test level and was well supported by Shammy Pollock and Brian Mitchell, who took two wickets each. Lance Klusener picking up the other.

reached 20 as they were dismissed for the third lowest Test total compiled at Kingsmead after Australia's 75 and South Africa's 99 in the same match of the 1949-50 series.

Hollooake strikes with the ball and salvages with the bat

SURREY'S Ben Hollooake showed his all-round value as England faltered against Pakistan in the third Under-19 Test in Lahore.

When England batted they overcame the early loss of Peters (8) and Sales (16) to reach 105 for two before Fabir removed Batty, Iqbal for 32, and Nash, bowled for a duck.

Sailing

Whale of a time after Buster blows out

Bob Fisher in Hobart

THE Southerly Buster which hit the Sydney-Hobart fleet and wrought havoc with some of the leaders, moderates as darkness fell on the first night at sea, leaving the competitors gasping for a fresh breath of wind.

almost lottery-like conditions. Another of Mother Nature's little jokes came in the form of about 100 pilot whales and a number of large humpback whales who joined the race yachts to take evasive action to avoid collision.

to go faster and Exile's slender lead was threatened. "They are under spinnaker and you'll expect the larger Morning Glory to overhaul Exile by tomorrow morning, unless something went radically wrong," said the race spokesman Peter Campbell.

Farr designed 45-footer was close astern of the 47ft Ausmald of George Georgia and these two hold a slight edge on the Murray designed 41-footer Terra Firma, of Scott Carlisle and Dean Wilson, the handicapped winner last year.

Leading the cruiser division, on the Performance Handicap System, is the 80ft Bright Morning Star, owned and skippered by Hugh Terhorne, the tactician of Australia II when she won the America's Cup.

Chess

McShane tops bill in Hastings end-of-pier show

Leonard Barden on the old congress with a starring role for amateurs and a 12-year-old

HASTINGS, the longest-running congress in the international calendar, opens at the Clingva Fort Hotel today amid growing interest in its newest tournament, the World Amateur Championship.

World Amateur into an event for 15 nations, including Georgia, Uganda and, for the first time in any British tournament, Japan. China will make a Hastings debut when Xie Jun, the women's world champion for eight years until last spring, plays in the Premier.

politics could pose a big problem soon. The congress is played in split venues, with the Premier and its 10 Grandmasters in the hotel and the remaining players in the ballroom at the end of the pier where, competitors allege, gale-force winds or stormy seas can cause one to blunder a rock.

Britain's Michael Adams, aged 25 and ranked 15th in the world, is top seed and favourite to win the Premier, despite the anticipated strong opposition from Xie Jun and from a new Armenian talent, the 18-year-old Sergel Movsesian.

The flash point occurred near the Sheffield team bench and several of their players were so incensed that they leapt on to the ice to remonstrate with Hope. Among the angry Stealers was Tim Cranston, who was penalised by the referee with two 10-minute penalties for leaving the bench.

Rugby League

Challenge crowd proves shot in the arm for Leeds Rhinos

Paul Fitzpatrick

THE crowd of 13,600 for Leeds Rhinos' Challenge match with Halifax Blue Sox on Boxing Day was massively heartening, despite their 14-6 defeat, for a club whose average attendances fell by more than 3,000 during the first Super League season.

St Helens expect to have their outstanding half-backs Bobbie Goulding and Karle Hammond available again for the second match with Wigan on New Year's Day.

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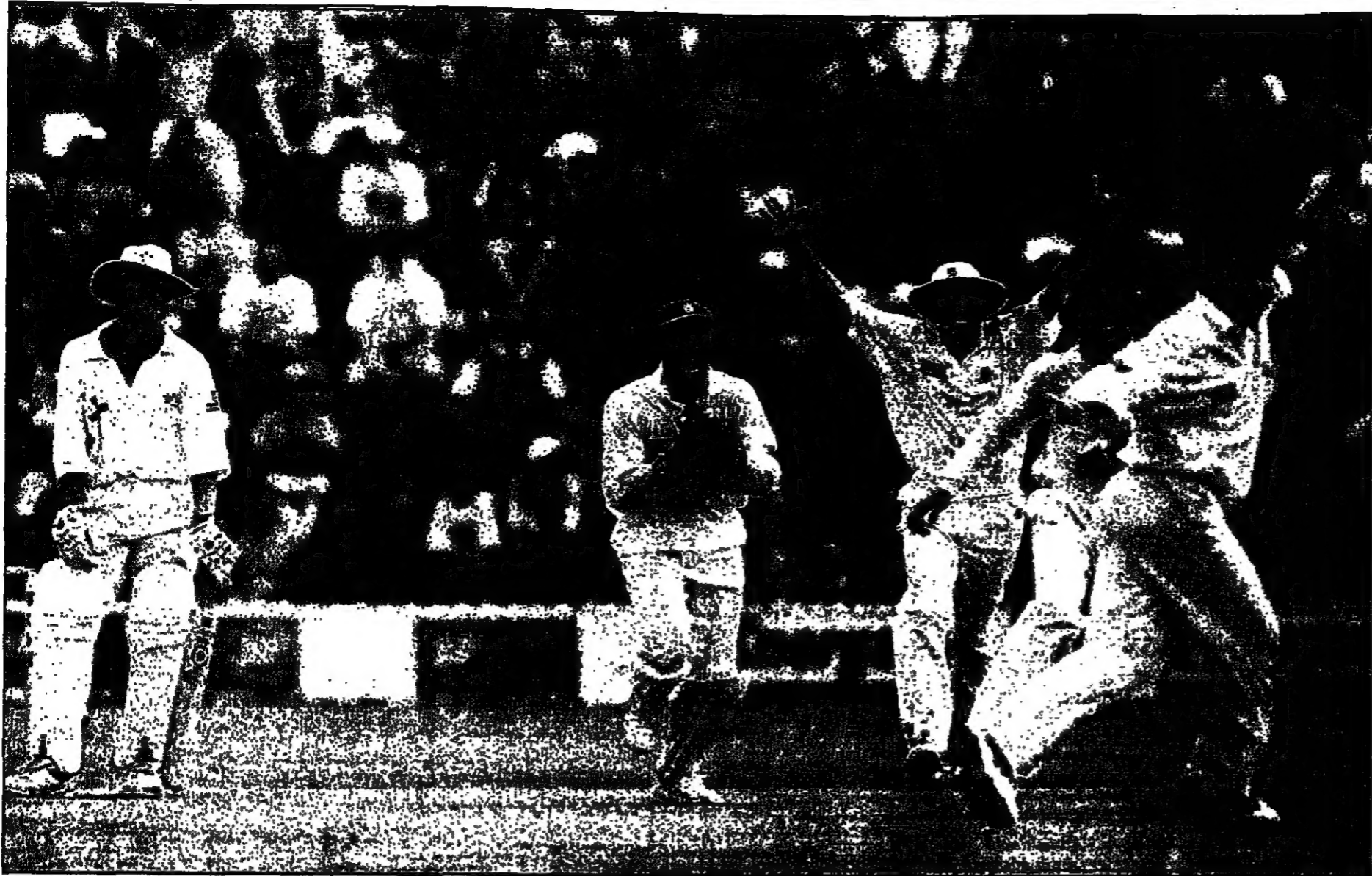
**Brown runs into Africa**  
Briton takes on the best for a Durham crown  
**20**



**Manager's mission**  
Can Pearce get Forest out of the woods?  
**22**

# The Guardian **SPORT**

## TEST CRICKET



Waiting game... Flower, on 29, stands his ground as Croft, far right, and all England appeal for Stewart's catch; umpire Tiffin said no, video replays suggested otherwise

Zimbabwe v England: second Test, second day

# Flower grinds England

David Hopps in Harare on a day when Zimbabwe were dogged, bowlers were frustrated and play was mercifully truncated

THOSE who stayed awake long enough to pass judgment were united in the belief that Grant Flower was playing an immensely valuable innings, yawning just the sort of, yawn, shm, discipline that England's batsmen had

Sorry, dropped off again there. Must give credit where it's due. Just the sort of discipline that England's batsmen have lacked during their collapse on the first day of the second Test, an innings that placed dependability above player, and the achievement of the team ahead of individual satisfaction.

The second day, four balls into the final session, Flower had chaperoned Zimbabwe to 89 for two in 48 overs, only 63 behind England's first-innings total. At this rate he will reach his century early on Sunday morning and, if he does, Zimbabwe will have victories of their first series since Test status.

defensive stroke, like a thin strand of tinsel on an otherwise undecorated Christmas tree. England will swear that they should already be rid of him, and the Sky TV replays, complete with zoom-in pictures, support their contention. On 26, Flower duffed with a leg glance against Croft and was caught down the leg side by Stewart, but

umpire Tiffin was unmoved. Three strokes remain in the mind. Croft's introduction tempted him into two lofted leg-side hits in quick succession. If that was an unexpected indulgence, it was nothing compared to the sight much later of Flower striding down the pitch to lift Tufnell one bounce into the long-off advertising hoardings.

Flower has some way to go today before he can think in terms of world records. Trevor Bailey, compiler of the slowest Test half-century, virtually six hours in Brisbane in 1966, was here yesterday. One of his duties was as a tour host, and there was no more appropriate witness.

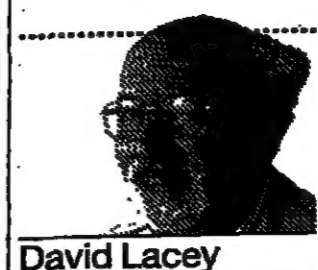
suited to this surface. Much as Mullanly, Gough and White sought to adapt, and match Zimbabwe's line-and-length discipline, all three are natural hit-the-pitch bowlers. Gough, indeed, volunteered the view after bowling out Matabeleland earlier in the tour that he was "not a line-and-length bowler". Considering that admission, he stuck at it fairly well.

Older English spectators wondered how this old-fashioned surface would have suited the likes of Brian Statham, Tom Cartwright, Don Shepherd and Derek Shackleton. Others considered the present county contingent and proposed unlikely names such as Tim Munton, Peter Hartley, Steve Watkins and even Ian Austin. What was clear is that four-day cricket on flat pitches is little preparation for this.

stranded on 47. They then managed two wickets; Mullanly's out-winger accounting for Dekker, White switching around the wicket to deceive Campbell into cutting a shortish delivery to first slip.

A copy of the Collins Collins Bogert's International Thesaurus will be sent to the first five correct entries drawn. Entries to Guardian Crossword No 20,846, EO Box 315, Miltonham, Surrey, CR4 2AX, by first post on Friday, 19th January and winners in the Guardian on Monday, December 30.

## The save, the miss and all that money



David Lacey

YESTERDAY'S snow-falls were a reminder that the New Year will mark the 50th anniversary of the severe winter of 1947, when English football enjoyed an unscheduled mid-season break of such generosity that the championship was not settled until the first week in June.

as much for Newcastle's title pretensions as the arrival of Billy Steel, for a then record fee of £15,000, did for Derby County during the 1947 summer. The nation is now shocked regarding transfers. Even if the coming year sees the first £30 million fee the event will hardly be greeted with the astonishment that accompanied Tommy Lawton's £20,000 move from Chelsea to Nottingham Forest, then in the old Third Division (South), in November 1947.

Money will continue to dominate football during the coming year. There will soon have been enough share flotations for a Spithead review. The leading players are earning more than ever. England has replaced France as an Eldorado for footballers past their prime in the Italian league.

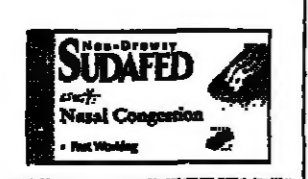
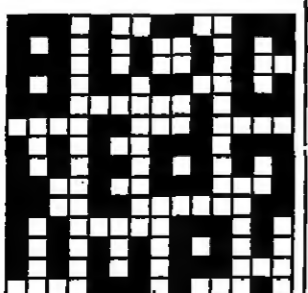
GLENN HODDLE could hardly have done better than win his first three World Cup qualifiers but Italy will be a truer test of his credentials as national coach. At least Hoddie's England are slightly better organised than they were 50 years ago, when Charles Buchan bemoaned the team's lack of a kit-man. "Every club is scared of an epidemic like influenza, eczema or itch sweeping through the camp," he wrote.

### Scoreboard

England		
Flower (overnight 137-4)	47	
J P Croft not out	9	
J P Storer not out	9	
Extras (b, lb, w, nb)		18
Total (51.1 overs)		106
New Zealand		24-1-25-4
Brett Lee 2-2-25-4		18
D L Houghton not out		28
Extras (b, lb, w, nb)		18
Total (38.4 overs)		90
Zimbabwe		20-0-25-0
D A H Campbell 2-0-25-0		28
D L Houghton not out		28
Extras (b, lb, w, nb)		18
Total (38.4 overs)		90

## Lacroix rings in the new with Quins

Robert Armstrong  
**H**ARLEQUINS have strengthened their French connection with the surprise acquisition of the 29-year-old Test fly-half Thierry Lacroix.



The former Dax and Natal goalkicker, who has agreed a deal worth around £250,000 over 3 1/2 years, will join his international team-mates Laurent Banez and Laurent Banezech at The Stoop.

Lacroix is expected to make his Courage League debut in next weekend's London derby against Wasps at Loftus Road. An accomplished playmaker, the Frenchman topped last year's World Cup scoring list with 116 points, which helped propel France into the semi-finals. Since making his Test debut in 1989 he has scored 367 points in 38 games for his country.

Best explained: "We are losing Robbie Paul and Gary Connolly to their rugby league employers in the New Year and Lacroix will fill one of the gaps because he can play at centre or stand-off. He is a world-class goalkicker and another vital piece in ourigsaw which is not yet complete."



Lacroix... French dressing

"We looked at ourselves and realised that we were suddenly no longer ice cream men. We'd become businessmen. We were, you know, writing memos and correspondence," says Jerry, looking horrified by the memory.

The Week page 15

## Guardian **CROSSWORD** Crossword 20,846

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- 24 Proposition learner's found at front of book (5)
  - 25 A welcome with fellows in concord (7)
  - 26 After accident tankers may be most noxious (7)
  - 27 Sea creature pitches on land in the absence of rain (7)
- Down**
- 1 Cook's accomplice again wants extra egg (6)
  - 2 Variety of items as shown by artist (7)
  - 3 Paper round is taken up as a duty (4)
  - 4 A botch-up Caesar's put right with humanitarian legislation (6,6,3)
  - 5 Use one's last resources to get grunge out of rifle? (6,3,6)
  - 6 Cheating blood flow that's severe (10)
  - 7 Polish up and having a foreign princess in the country? (7)
  - 8 One shut up in a boring job—helps with the washing up? (7)
  - 13 Extravagant chatter about golf played (10)
  - 16 Distributor unable to accommodate one should be more flexible (7)
  - 17 One in boat means terribly about a river? (7)
  - 19 Present-day split initiated by contemptible type? (7)
  - 22 Rebel ruler of Britain sinking in the sea? (5)
  - 23 A four-letter word you may come across with bower boys (4)

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The 20th Anniversary... Inside

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